

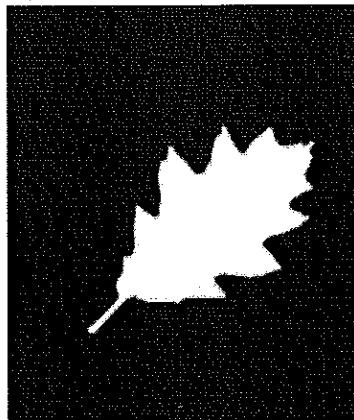
insurers deny a patient treatment recommended by her physicians. [Read more](#)

From Our Free-Market Friends

[1.8 Million Illinoisans are Dependent on Food Stamps](#)

In this report from the Illinois Policy Institute, Brendan Bakala analyzes data from the Illinois Department of Human Services. Bakala found the number of Illinois residents enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly called "food stamps," increased by more than 15,000 from March 2016 to March 2017, while the number of recipients in Indiana decreased by more than 9 percent during the same period. Bakala argues Indiana's economic success comes from its pro-growth policies, including its right-to-work law.

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The Heartland Institute

The Heartland Institute is a 33-year-old national non-profit organization dedicated to discovering, developing, and promoting free-market solutions to economic and social problems.

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Learn what the Founders intended our federal government to really be versus what it has become and learn how we need to fix it !





Constitution Boot Camp XXXIII Is Being Held At The EmpowerU Studios!

We have been looking for the proper venue to hold a class in Hamilton County and with the folks at EmpowerU stepping up, we have found it !

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For those who live on the Westside of Cincinnati, this will be a good opportunity to attend one of our classes. Kids, give your Dad a class **AND** you attend with him for his Father's Day present ! Sign up today !

Building Blocks for Liberty presents our **33rd** Constitution Boot Camp at the EmpowerU studio with lunch provided by American's for Prosperity.

The Boot Camp is a six-hour workshop, with a break for lunch, which outlines the key concepts and ideas of the Constitution in simple, easy to understand terms. It is appropriate for teenage students and older.

Topics to be covered include:

- How did the Founders view government?
- What are Natural Law and Natural Rights?
- What is the difference between a Republic and a Democracy?
- How do you use the Federalist Papers to understand the U.S. Constitution?
- What is Nullification?

Boot Camp participants receive a binder with the presentation, 2 handbooks, The Federalist Papers and The Handbook For We the People, plus a pocket copy of the U.S. Constitution and LUNCH !

All for a donation of just \$25 ! Additional family members can attend for just \$5 each. We have a limited number of scholarships available for Students.

These Constitution Boot Camps equip people with the tools and resources necessary to enable them to be confident in their abilities to understand and apply the U.S. Constitution to all facets of government.

Who should attend our Boot Camp? Senior Citizens, Home School Students, Teachers, Law Enforcement Officials, Government Officials and anyone who just wants a refresher on the Constitution!

Lunch will be provided by
Americans for Prosperity!



Here are the logistics for **CBC XXXIII** :

Location: EmpowerU Studio

**Address: 225 Northland Blvd, Springdale, OH,
45246**

Date: SATURDAY, June 17, 2017

Time: 10:00 AM to 4 PM

NOTE there is a time change for this class !

To get directions go here:

Directions To Boot Camp

To Register For This Class

For information go to **Constitution Boot Camp**

XXXIII

BBFL

For more information on
Building Blocks for Liberty,
click on the button below !



**BBFL
Website**

"Eternal vigilance is the price of Liberty."

~Thomas Jefferson

BBFL | jim@buildingblocksforliberty.org |
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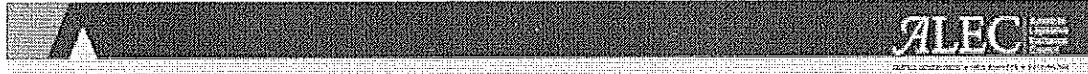


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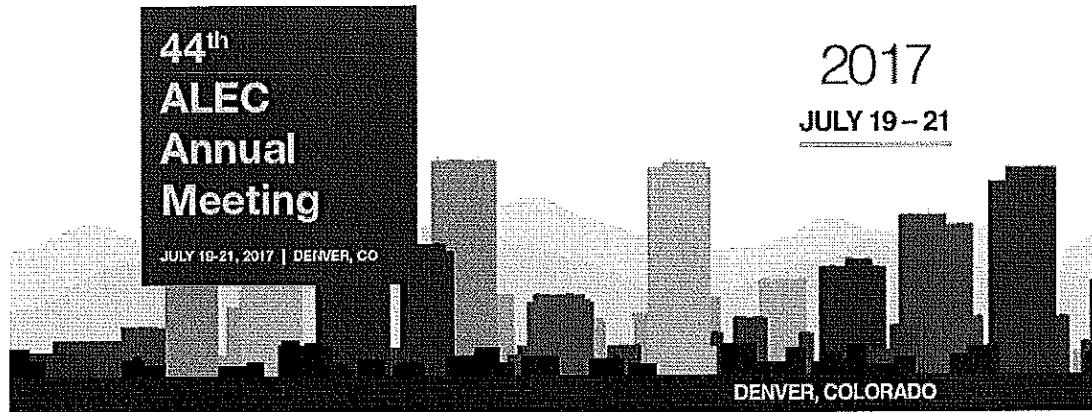


Early Bird Rates End TOMORROW, June 6!

Have YOU registered?

**You do NOT want to miss this meeting.
Be sure and register today to save on your registration!**

>> REGISTER NOW



Speaker Announcement

Secretary Betsy DeVos

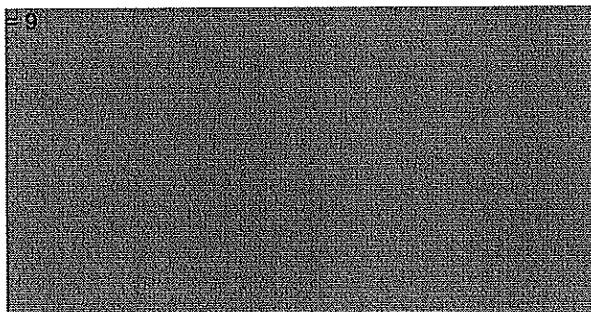
Join ALEC and Secretary DeVos as she speaks to what is being done for Education issues at the state and federal levels.

This will be a highlight of the meeting!

Workshop: "The State of Oil and Natural Gas Regulations: Local Governments vs. State Agencies & How the Industry Can Best Balance Transparency and Safety"

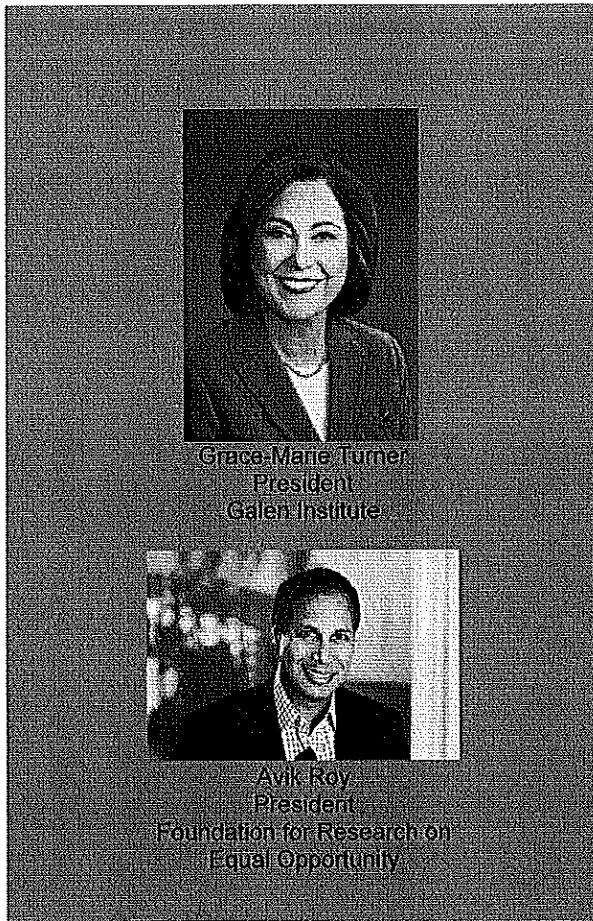
Conversations around oil and gas have drastically shifted over recent years. Many argue that local governments are best suited to handle oil and gas regulations, while others would argue State agencies are best equipped to do so.

Come and be a part of the conversation!



Policy Spotlight

The ALEC Health and Human Services Task Force is excited to announce Grace-Marie Turner and Avik Roy will be joining the task force to speak on the state of Health Reform in the states.



Grace-Marie Turner, President, Galen Institute

Atul Gawande, President, Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity

Turner has been instrumental in developing and promoting ideas for reform to transfer power over health care decisions to doctors and patients. She speaks and writes extensively about incentives to promote a more competitive, patient-centered marketplace in the health sector.

Roy is the author of *How Medicaid Fails the Poor* and *Transcending Obamacare: A Patient-Centered Plan for Near-Universal Coverage and Permanent Fiscal Solvency*. He serves on the advisory board of the National Institute for Health Care Management and co-chaired the Fixing Veterans Health Care Policy Taskforce.

This is a great opportunity to hear from two major players in the health care reform fight.

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Don't forget to make your hotel reservation!

The Hyatt Regency will serve as the host hotel for the ALEC Annual Meeting. Book now at the discounted rate of \$205/ per night.

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Reservation deadline is June 26

Book Today!



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Questions? Contact our Events Team

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ALEC
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Arlington, VA 22202



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Early Bird Rates End TODAY and Surprise Guest Speaker Announced

44th ALEC Annual Meeting | Register Today | NEW Speakers Announced



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Hurry and [register](#) for the ALEC Annual Meeting before the early bird deadline ends **TODAY!**

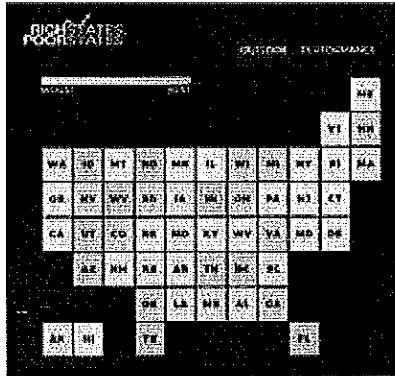
SPEAKER ANNOUNCEMENT: Secretary Betsy DeVos has been confirmed to join ALEC in Denver to speak to what is being done for Education issues at the state and federal levels. Grace-Marie Turner and Avik Roy will also be joining ALEC and the Health and Human Services Task Force to speak on the state of health care reform in the states.

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NEW: Center Website

Rich States, Poor States Website

The ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform | Richstatespoorsstates.org



RichStatesPoorStates.org

Check out the new, official *Rich States, Poor States* website to examine the latest movements in state economic growth and competitiveness. With an interactive and easy to use interface, visitors can search and compare their states' economic outlook. [Click here](#) to find out how your state adds up!

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Policy Center Update

Taxes, Pensions and Free Speech on Display in Salt Lake City

Christine Smith | Center for State Fiscal Reform



The ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform and the Center to Protect Free Speech joined Utah legislators May 17-19 in Salt Lake City. The event consisted of a nonpartisan policy training and a forum for legislators to discuss detailed policy solutions regarding pension reform, tax reform and priority-based budgeting, donor privacy and commercial speech. [Click here](#) to find out more.



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Administration Policy Update

Administration's Budget Reins in Spending, Predicts Enhanced GDP Growth

Elliot Young | Center for State Fiscal Reform | Tax Reform



The President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2018 outlined an ambitious pro-growth agenda—addressing discretionary as well as entitlement spending. [Click here](#) to find out the Administration's budget highlights.



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Expert Opinion

On the Beyond Budget Impasse, Look Beyond the Media Hype to the Facts

The Hill | Joel Griffith | Senator Ty Masterson, KY



The impasse in Topeka over how to resolve the budget gap and whether to impose drastic tax hikes has captured the attention of both the state and the nation. [Click here](#) to find out how Kansas plans to minimize the tax burden of job creators, entrepreneurs and workers.



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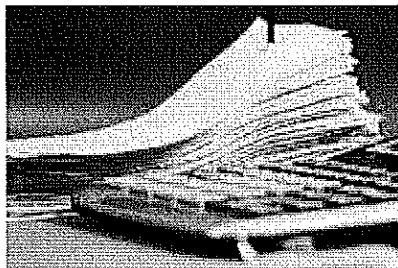
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Expert Insight

Addressing States' Budget Deficits: Performance-Based Outcome Budgeting

Huffington Post | Bob Williams | President, State Budget Solutions



Bob Williams, President of State Budget Solutions and Senior ALEC Scholar, lays out how states are masking long-term budget deficits through accounting gimmicks-spurring the risk of a severe financial crisis. [Read more](#).



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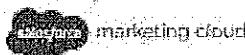
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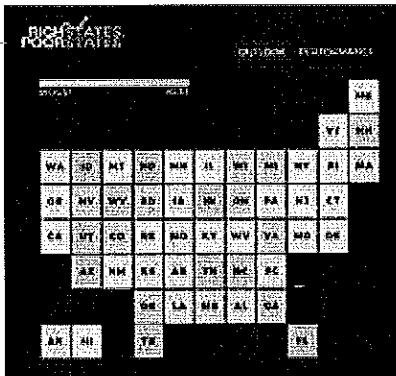
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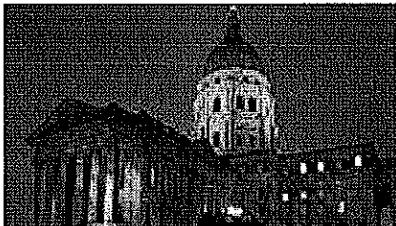
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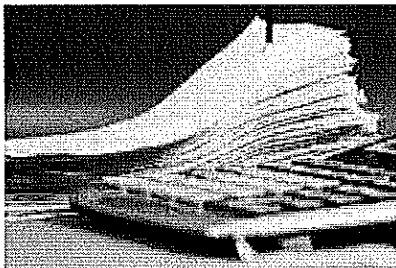
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*Leadership for
Public Charter Schools*

OHIO COALITION FOR QUALITY EDUCATION



Constellation Schools - parents 'sign up' for Parents for Charter Schools

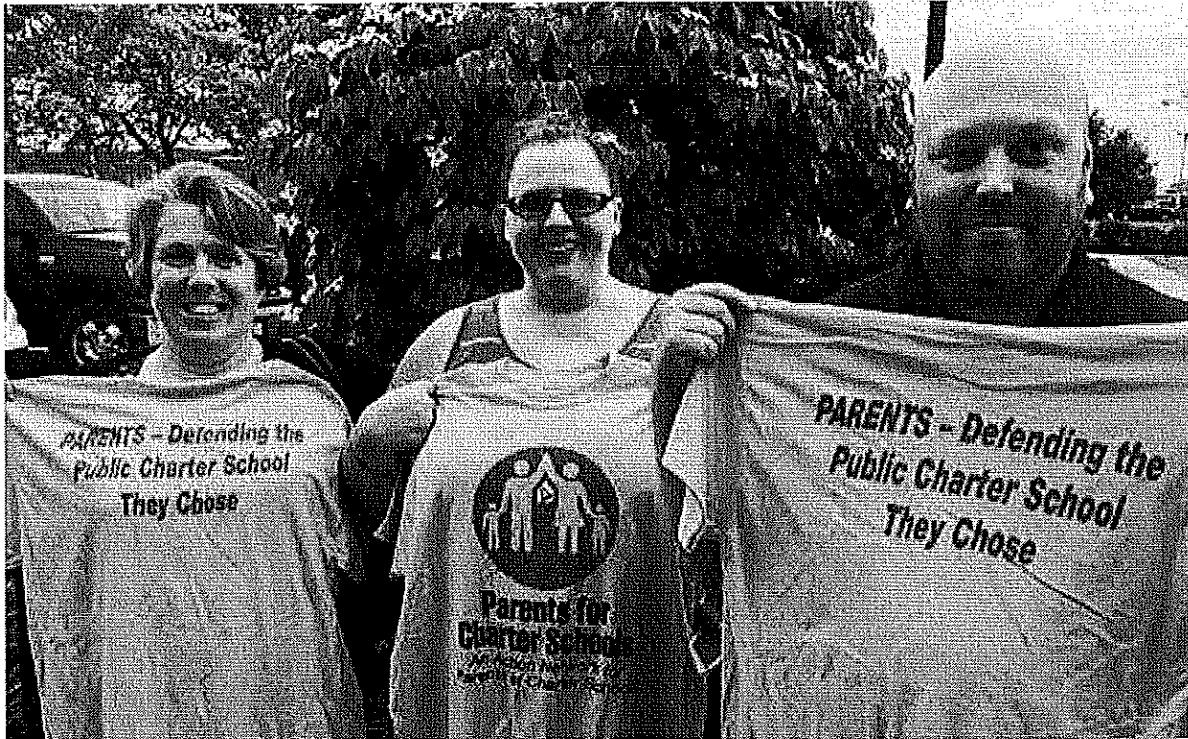
Constellation Schools is a premier management company of 21 outstanding public charter schools, all located within the greater Cleveland area. More parents want to defend their child's education and protect the public charter school that they chose. That's why they are signing up for - [Parents for Charter Schools](#).

www.parents-charters.org

Lorain Community parents - Ms. Turner and Ms. Brown



Elyria Community parents - Ms. Janus, Ms. Hillbery and Mr. Wall



Each parent told their story about why they chose their Constellation School and why they feel passionate about their charter school. And they all gave the same reasons:

- * They love the small class sizes
- * The principal knows the names of every student
- * Their charter school offers a safe environment for their child
- * They love that parents are welcome in their charter school
- * They truly appreciate the character development that their charter school offers
- * Their child is excelling and are so happy at their charter school



Rebecca L. Keeney, Executive Director of Constellation Schools said, "All of us are so pleased that our parents are engaging with this new parent organization. We know that parents are the core of our charter schools and their voice can be a powerful force for their child's education."

Parents for Charter Schools Welcomes Constellation Schools Parents!

June 8, 2017



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Ohio Coalition for Quality Education, 1808 Sulky Trail, Miamisburg, OH 45342

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ALEC CARE is **THE** Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) tool solution for legislators that transforms the way you interact with your constituents. Make sure to reserve a time slot to receive a 20 minute demonstration while you're in Denver.

At the training, you will learn:

- How to turn contact information into engaging relationships with your constituents
- How to be a better lawmaker by using data

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ALEC is pleased to announce Education Secretary Betsy DeVos will be joining us for our 44th Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado. [Click here](#) to see the newest additions to the ALEC Annual Meeting line-up.



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ALEC Staff Update

Jonathan Williams Joins the State Financial Officers Foundation Advisory Board

Jonathan Williams | ALEC Chief Economist and Vice President for the Center for State Fiscal Reform



ALEC Chief Economist and Vice President for the Center for State and Fiscal Reform, Jonathan Williams, has joined the State Financial Officers Foundation (SFOF) Advisory Board. [Click here for more.](#)



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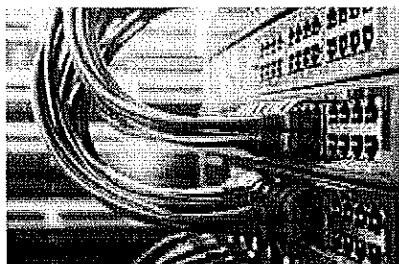
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Expert Insight

Report: Municipally Owned Fiber Networks are a Losing Proposition for Taxpayers

Jonathon Hauenschild | Task Force Director, Communications and Technology | Broadband



According to a [recent report](#) from the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Technology, Innovation and Competition, municipally owned broadband networks simply are not wise investments for localities. [Click here for more.](#)



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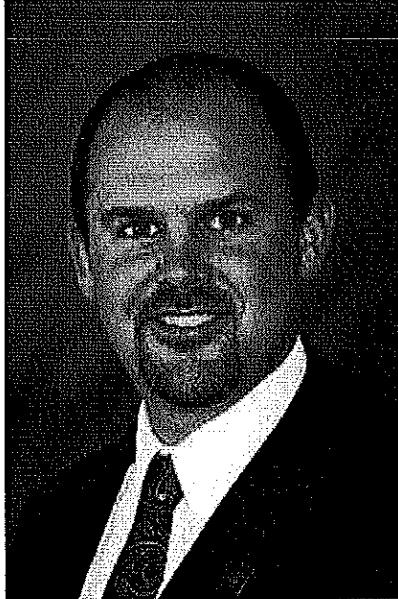
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Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Representative Heath VanNatter | IN-38



[Read the Full Bio](#)

Representative Heath VanNatter is a native of Indiana born in Howard County. He is currently serving in his fourth term representing the 38th District of the Indiana House of Representatives. Rep. VanNatter is the owner and operator of VanNatter Construction, and serves on the Executive Committee of the Indiana Builders Association and the Board of Directors of the National Association of Home Builders. Additionally, he is the past President of the Howard County Home Builders Association, of which he is also a current board member.

[Click here for the full bio.](#)



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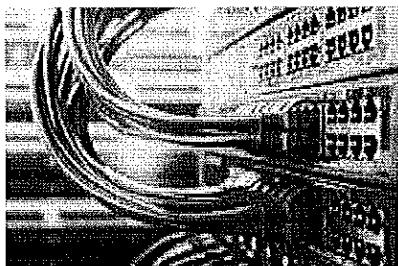
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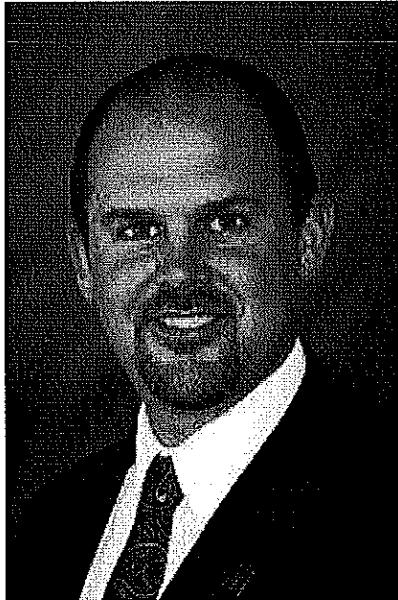
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Learn what the Founders intended our federal government to really be versus what it has become and learn how we need to fix it !



**Constitution
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XXXIII Is
Being Held At
The
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In the 1973 movie, "Walking Tall" Judge Clark admonishes Sheriff Buford Pusser for not knowing the law. Buford takes the Tennessee revised code book home with him, learns the law, and well, watch this clip:



Like Buford, you have to know what the rules are before you can make your government abide by them. Do you know what powers the Constitution gives to the federal government? Like Buford, are you willing to

learn them, then use them against those abusing power ?

Register TODAY for Constitution Boot Camp XXXIII. Here is the link to register: **CBC XXXIII Registration**

For those who live on the Westside of Cincinnati, this will be a good opportunity to attend one of our classes. Kids, give your Dad a class **AND** you attend with him for his Father's Day present ! Sign up today !

Building Blocks for Liberty presents our **33rd** Constitution Boot Camp at the EmpowerU studio with lunch provided by American's for Prosperity.

The Boot Camp is a six-hour workshop, with a break for lunch, which outlines the key concepts and ideas of the Constitution in simple, easy to understand terms. It is appropriate for teenage students and older.

Topics to be covered include:

- How did the Founders view government?
- What are Natural Law and Natural Rights?
- What is the difference between a Republic and a Democracy?
- How do you use the Federalist Papers to understand the U.S. Constitution?
- What is Nullification?

Boot Camp participants receive a binder with the presentation, 2 handbooks, The Federalist Papers and The Handbook For We the People, plus a pocket copy of the U.S. Constitution and LUNCH !

All for a donation of just \$25 ! Additional family members can attend for just \$5 each. We have a limited number of scholarships available for Students.

These Constitution Boot Camps equip people with the tools and resources necessary to enable them to be confident in their abilities to understand and apply the U.S. Constitution to all facets of government.

Who should attend our Boot Camp? Senior Citizens, Home School Students, Teachers, Law Enforcement Officials, Government Officials and anyone who just wants a refresher on the Constitution!

Lunch will be provided by
Americans for Prosperity!



**AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY**
OHIO

Here are the logistics for **CBC XXXIII** :

Location: EmpowerU Studio

Address: 225 Northland Blvd, Springdale, OH, 45246

Date: SATURDAY, June 17, 2017

Time: 10:00 AM to 4 PM

NOTE there is a time change for this class !

To get directions go here:

Directions To Boot Camp

To Register For This Class

For information go to **Constitution Boot Camp XXXIII**

BBFL

For more information on Building Blocks for Liberty, click on the button below !



**BBFL
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~Thomas Jefferson

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Learn what the Founders intended our federal government to really be versus what it has become and learn how we need to fix it !



**Constitution
Boot Camp
XXXIII Is
Being Held At
The
EmpowerU
Studios!**



We want you to attend CBC XXXIII this Saturday, it looks like it will be HOT out with rain so it will be a good day to spend indoors learning about the Constitution.

Be like Buford, learn how the federal government is really supposed to work then you can hold your congressmen accountable.

In the 1973 movie, "Walking Tall" Judge Clark admonishes Sheriff Buford Pusser for not knowing the law. Buford takes the Tennessee revised code book home with him, learns the law, and well, watch this clip:



Like Buford, you have to know what the rules are before you can make your government abide by them. Do you know what powers the Constitution gives to the federal government? Like Buford, are you willing to learn them, then use them against those abusing power?

Register TODAY for Constitution Boot Camp XXXIII. Here is the link to register: [CBC XXXIII Registration](#)

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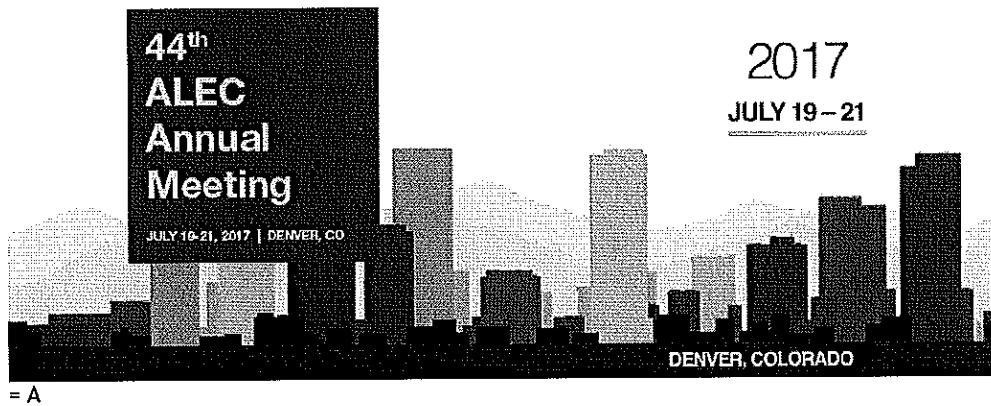
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The 2017 ALEC Annual Meeting is Around the Corner!

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Workshop Topics Announced

for Annual Meeting...

- The State of Oil and Natural Gas Regulations: Local Governments vs. State Agencies & How the Industry Can Best Balance Transparency and Safety
- Expanding Access to Dental Care in Medicaid Through Market-Based Solutions
- Why the Nation Needs YOU to Drain the Swamp With the Ultimate Tool of Federalism: 4 Perspectives on Article V
- Prescription Drug Abuse: A Collective Approach to Policy Solutions Is Essential
- Beyond the Headlines: The Data and Trends You Need to Know about School Choice
- The Future of Fossil Fuels: How Innovative Technologies will Lower Costs and Solve Environmental Objectives

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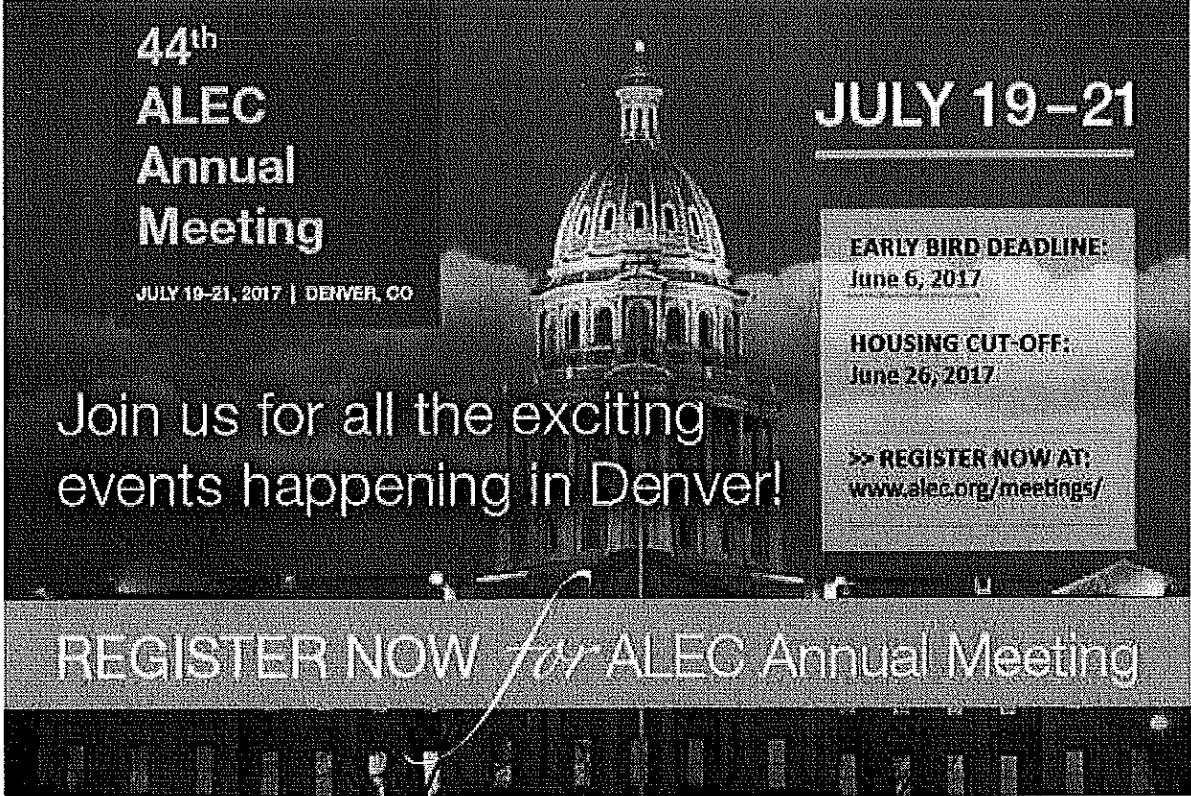
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[ALEC CARE Demo Schedule](#)

A Letter From the Desk of Bartlett Cleland
Innovation Heats Up! and You Can Be Part of It

Of the many promises of innovation, no promise likely rises higher than the opportunity to live longer, healthier and more active lives. While advances in entertainment and consumer electronics tend to catch our attention and seem to improve some aspects of our lives almost immediately, advances in health care can often seem remote and harder to grasp. But now and then an advance comes along that is completely obvious in its benefit.

Smoking remains one of the leading preventable causes of death in the U.S. and around the world, for that matter. For years, various products have been on the market to help those who do smoke to kick the habit, but the results have been mixed at best. The fact is approximately 40 million Americans still smoke. That is nearly one out of eight Americans. America needs better options.

As reported by the Royal College of Physicians last year, commenting on what is widely accepted, "Most of the harm caused by smoking arises not from nicotine but from other components of tobacco smoke." This follows the Health and Human Services report that diseases from smoking are directly linked to long term exposure to the toxicants from combustible tobacco products. But it turns out that if instead of burning the tobacco it is heated to where it produces a fine vapor, then the health challenges are vastly reduced. And that is where Philip Morris International (PMI) comes in.

PMI has spent years and invested billions of dollars on "heat-not-burn" technology, working to modify the risk of tobacco products. Their patented product, the Tobacco Heating System, is a rechargeable electronic heated blade that releases the moisture in tobacco to produce an aerosol that tastes like tobacco and hence satisfies smokers. The tobacco never burns. This is innovation bettering the health of those who already choose to smoke.

Now government needs to get out of the way and let the innovation of the free market help address the major health concern of smoking. Congress created a particular means to provide an incentive for innovators to find a way to reduce the harm of cigarette smoking, or as they are called, Modified Risk Tobacco Products. Congress handed the FDA the authority to authorize such life-saving inventions but they must consider the effects of the new products not just on smokers but on the general population. During this consideration risks are weighed against all the benefits of bringing a new healthier alternative to market that holds the promise of actually reducing smoking. So, applications for such products must be approved by the FDA. But while the FDA may be famous for approving new products it is equally infamous for throttling innovation by moving at the speed of government. But when lives are at stake certainly the agency could accelerate its review while continuing to be transparent and fair, somewhat mitigating the slowness of bureaucracy and disregarding partisan politics

You can help push innovation forward, nudge government to move and provide a pathway for millions of American lives to be saved by making available more scientifically substantiated alternatives to smoking available. The public docket is open on modified risk tobacco product applications and you can file comments in support of the free market and innovation. From now until December 12 the FDA is accepting public comments, but the FDA is asking for comments to be filed earlier rather than later. Comments are easily filed [here](#).

Those who believe that the free market is the best solution and that liberty is better than big government must be constantly vigilant in big and small ways. The FDA has provided an opportunity for those favoring innovation to make the case for the free market in improving of our nation's health. Please make that case.

Sincerely,

Bartlett Cleland

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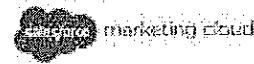
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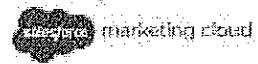
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Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 11:35 AM
To: Rep88
Subject: June | Partnership, Poetry, & More

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Keep an eye on upcoming webinars, open nominations and registrations, and the story of a successful partnership.

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Share your story with #ArtsOhio

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PARTNERSHIP ABOUNDS WITH STUDENT ARTISTS AND STATE AGENCIES



On June 2, the Ohio Arts Council brought together students, artists, and arts and civil rights leaders for the opening of the 2017-2018 *Ohio Civil Rights Exhibition*. OAC Executive Director Donna S. Collins writes about the partnership involved to bring 39 art works to the Rhodes State Office Tower.

[READ DONNA'S MESSAGE](#)

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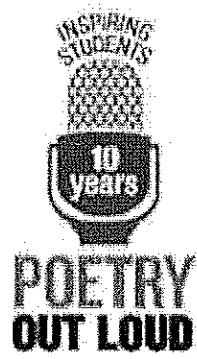
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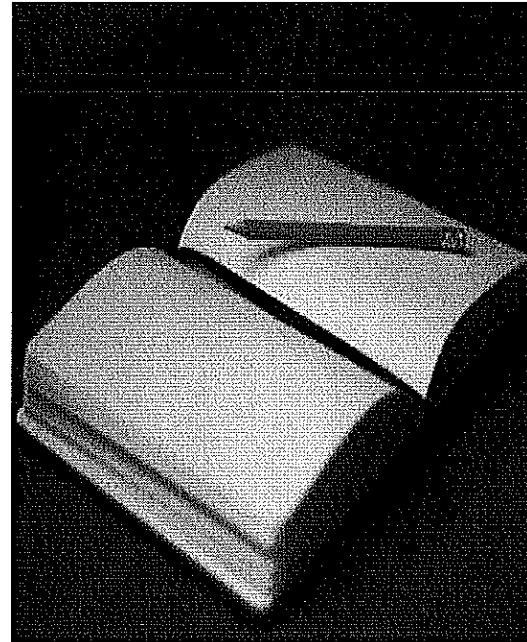
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**2018 POL SCHOOL
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

School registration is now open for the 2017-2018 *Ohio Poetry Out Loud*. Participation in *POL* is completely free and open to all Ohio high schools, including registration, program materials, workshops, and contests. Registration is open through winter.

REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL



**NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS
FOR OHIO POET LAUREATE**

Do you know a great poet? The Ohio Poet Laureate has the opportunity to foster the art of poetry and encourage literacy and learning. [Position guidelines are available online.](#) [Nominations are being accepted](#) now through July 5.



NOMINATE TODAY

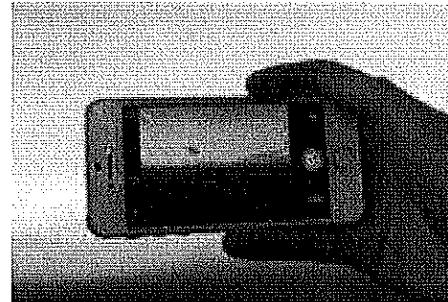
SHAKESPEARE IN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES OHIO GRANTEES

On May 31, [Arts Midwest](#) announced the 2017-2018 Shakespeare in American Communities grants. Both [Cincinnati Shakespeare Company](#) and [Great Lakes Theater](#) in Cleveland received grants that will allow them to present a Shakespearean production to local students.

[READ ABOUT THE GRANTEES](#)

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GAME CHANGED: DIY VIDEO EDITING ON A SMARTPHONE

Join Beth Menduni to learn to edit your video message with Adobe Spark's FREE video editing app.

This webinar is perfect for organizations and individual artists on a budget wanting to improve their DIY skills. To watch previous webinars, [subscribe to our YouTube page](#).

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AWARDS MORE THAN \$1.2M TO OHIO RECIPIENTS

The National Endowment for the Arts has announced a total of \$1,275,500 in grants to be awarded to 19 arts-related organizations across Ohio, including \$965,500 going to the Ohio Arts Council to help support arts initiatives across the state. This is the eighth year in a row that the OAC has earned the second-highest partnership agreement grant.

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LEARN MORE ABOUT OHIO'S NEA GRANT RECIPIENTS

HAPPENING AT THE RIFFE GALLERY

CURRENTLY ON VIEW



After Hours

Modeled after the OAC Riffe Gallery's 1989 exhibition showcasing the work of Vern Riffe Center employees, this exhibition features artwork by 43 public servants across Ohio. The exhibition is now on display through July 8. [Read Riffe Gallery fellow Kim Webb's recent interview with After Hours artist Jennifer Whitten.](#)

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COMING SOON



OHIO: The Start of it All

Curated by Dan Chudzinski of the University of Findlay's Mazza Museum, the exhibition consists of 60 original children's book illustrations based on people, places, inventions, and more related to the great state of Ohio. [Read the OAC Riffe Gallery's recent announcement for the OHIO: The Start of it All Exhibition.](#)

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FOR ALL | Deadlines & Dates to Remember

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Mark Your Calendar

June 22: Game Changed: DIY Video Editing on a Smartphone Webinar

Happening in the OAC Riffe Gallery

The OAC's Riffe Gallery is pleased to offer FREE tours for groups of up to 40 of OHIO: The Start of it All. Exhibition tours will be available July 31 through

July 5: Ohio Poet Laureate Nomination Deadline
July 19: Summer Board Meeting

October 12. For specific tour days and times, contact OAC Riffe Gallery Director Mary Gray at mary.gray@oac.ohio.gov or 614-728-2239.

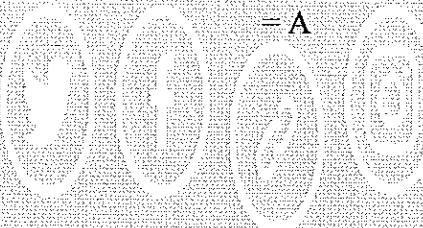
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Image credits: 1) Ohio Civil Rights Exhibition, photo by Kathy Signorino; 2) 2016 Premiere Performance at Shadowbox Live in Columbus, OH.

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You are receiving the monthly ArtsOhio newsletter because you signed up on the Ohio Arts Council website, through social media, or in-person at the Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery.

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ALEC CARE in Denver

ALEC CARE | Contact Ashley Varner for more information avarner@alec.org

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[ALEC CARE Demo Schedule](#)

Annual Meeting Housing Deadline is Monday!

44th ALEC Annual Meeting | Register Today | A Sarah Wood Production



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The 44th ALEC Annual Meeting is just around the corner! If you plan on joining us in Denver and have not yet done so yet, hurry and reserve your hotel today before the housing block ends Monday!

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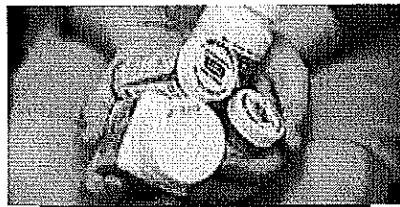


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Expert Insight

In the Opioid Crisis, Maryland is an Example for the Rest of the Nation

Ronald J. Lampard | Criminal Justice Reform



[Read the Full Article](#)

The opioid crisis has affected rural, suburban and urban areas across the nation and members of all socioeconomic classes. The state of Maryland has been hit particularly hard.

= Fortunately, the Maryland legislature passed several measures aimed at addressing the opioid crisis this year. The bills, which were signed into law by Republican Governor Larry Hogan, provide a wide range of solutions.



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Expert Opinion

Let's Fix Our Underground Water Infrastructure Through Open Competition

Ellen Troxclair | City Council Woman | Austin, TX | ACCE



[Read the Full Article](#)

Like so many other people across the nation, I was horrified by the water contamination crisis that struck Flint, Michigan. As an elected official who bears direct responsibility for maintaining the integrity of my city's drinking water system, I ask myself: What can be done to keep this from happening in my community? [Click here for more.](#)



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Pension Reform Update

Pennsylvania Passes Bipartisan Pension Reform

Joel Griffith | Jonathan Williams | Pension Reform



[Read the Full Article](#)

Thanks to the dedication of numerous ALEC legislative leaders in Harrisburg, pension reform was enacted in Pennsylvania this week. The long-term financial risk to taxpayers of potentially being forced to bail out the state's underfunded pension system is now substantially diminished. [Click here for more.](#)



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Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Senator Michael Hough | MD-04



Senator Michael Hough is a native Marylander and was born in Silver Spring, Maryland. After he graduated high school, he entered the United States Air Force and served as a Minuteman III Missile Technician. He received his A.A from the Community College of the Air Force and B.S. in Political Science from Towson University. In addition to his service in the Air Force, Sen. Hough served as a legislative aide to Maryland State Senator Alex Mooney before entering the legislature. [Click here](#) for the full bio.

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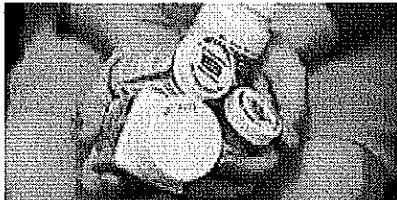


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Expert Insight

In the Opioid Crisis, Maryland is an Example for the Rest of the Nation

Ronald J. Lampard | Criminal Justice Reform



[Read the Full Article](#)

The opioid crisis has affected rural, suburban and urban areas across the nation and members of all socioeconomic classes. The state of Maryland has been hit particularly hard.

= Fortunately, the Maryland legislature passed several measures aimed at addressing the opioid crisis this year. The bills, which were signed into law by Republican Governor Larry Hogan, provide a wide range of solutions.



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Expert Opinion

Let's Fix Our Underground Water Infrastructure Through Open Competition

Ellen Troxclair | City Council Woman | Austin, TX | ACCE



[Read the Full Article](#)

Like so many other people across the nation, I was horrified by the water contamination crisis that struck Flint, Michigan. As an elected official who bears direct responsibility for maintaining the integrity of my city's drinking water system, I ask myself: What can be done to keep this from happening in my community? [Click here for more.](#)



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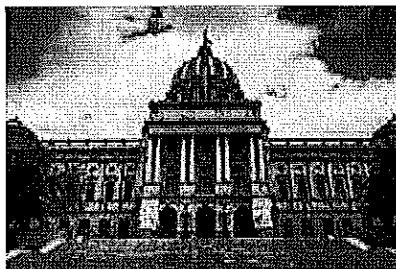


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Pension Reform Update

Pennsylvania Passes Bipartisan Pension Reform

Joel Griffith | Jonathan Williams | Pension Reform



[Read the Full Article](#)

Thanks to the dedication of numerous ALEC legislative leaders in Harrisburg, pension reform was enacted in Pennsylvania this week. The long-term financial risk to taxpayers of potentially being forced to bail out the state's underfunded pension system is now substantially diminished. [Click here for more.](#)



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Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Senator Michael Hough | MD-04



[Read the Full Bio](#)

Senator Michael Hough is a native Marylander and was born in Silver Spring, Maryland. After he graduated high school, he entered the United States Air Force and served as a Minuteman III Missile Technician. He received his A.A from the Community College of the Air Force and B.S. in Political Science from Towson University. In addition to his service in the Air Force, Sen. Hough served as a legislative aide to Maryland State Senator Alex Mooney before entering the legislature. [Click here](#) for the full bio.



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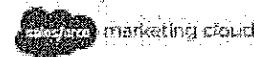
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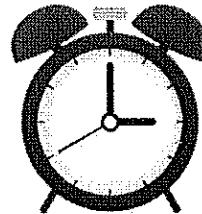
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We are excited to see so many of you in a few short weeks! Be sure to secure your room **TODAY** before the rate goes up.

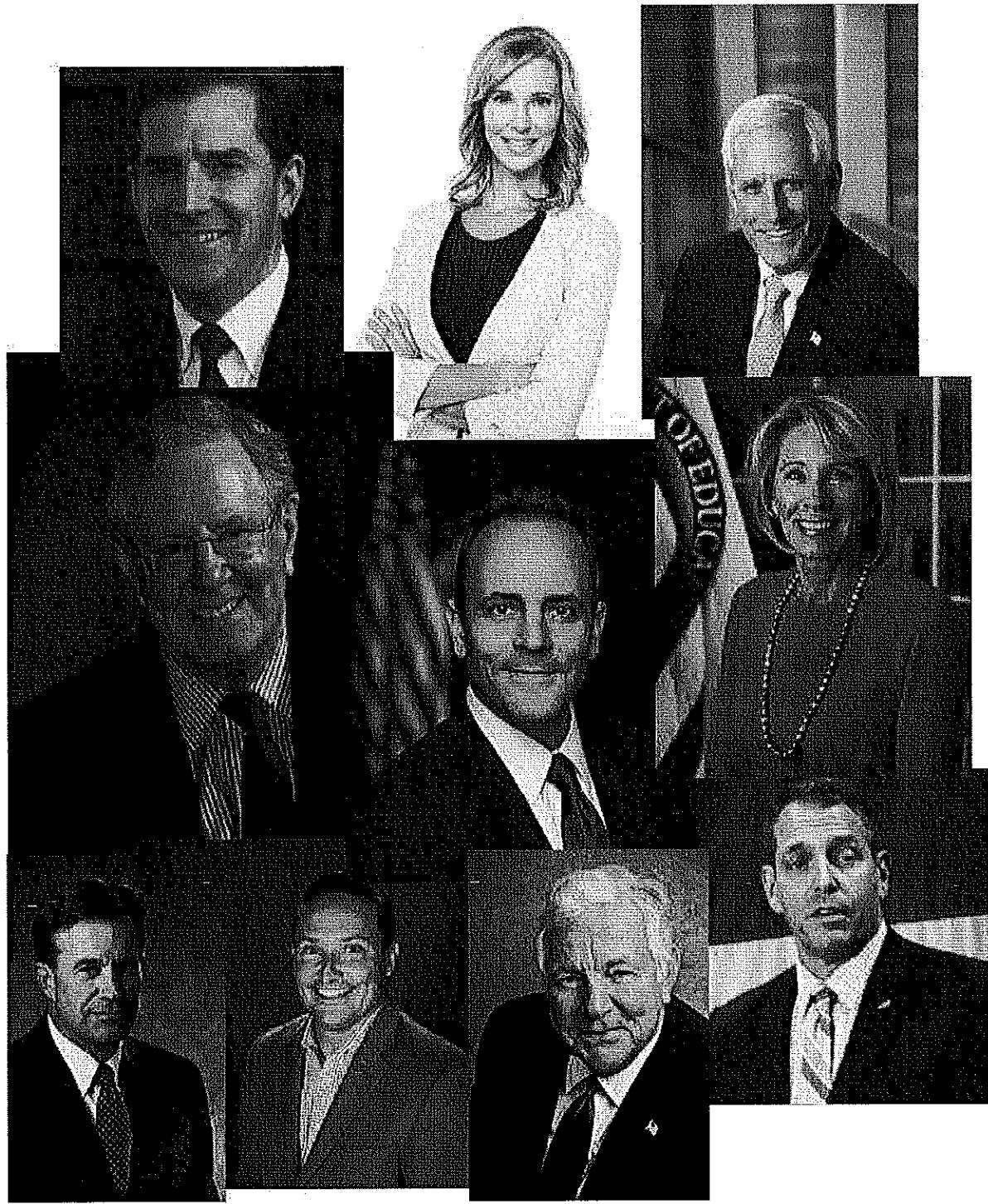
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If you have already reserved your room, THANK YOU!

Still need to register for the ALEC Annual Meeting?
You have time.

>> REGISTER NOW

Join us to hear from our incredible
line-up of speakers!



More to be announced soon!

Agenda News!

State Specific Responses to the Opioid / Addiction Crisis Working Group

*A collaboration between the Health and Human Services and
the Criminal Justice Reform Task Forces*

Wednesday July 19, 2017, 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM

Join us as we examine policies relating to and affecting the response to the opioid addiction and overdose epidemic currently plaguing our communities. The Working Group will be led by leaders on the public policies recently implemented in this space, Wisconsin Representative John Nygren and Maryland Senator Michael Hough.

Limiting Taxation and Spending Through the Taxpayer Bill of Rights

(TABOR) Discussion

Thursday July 20, 2017, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

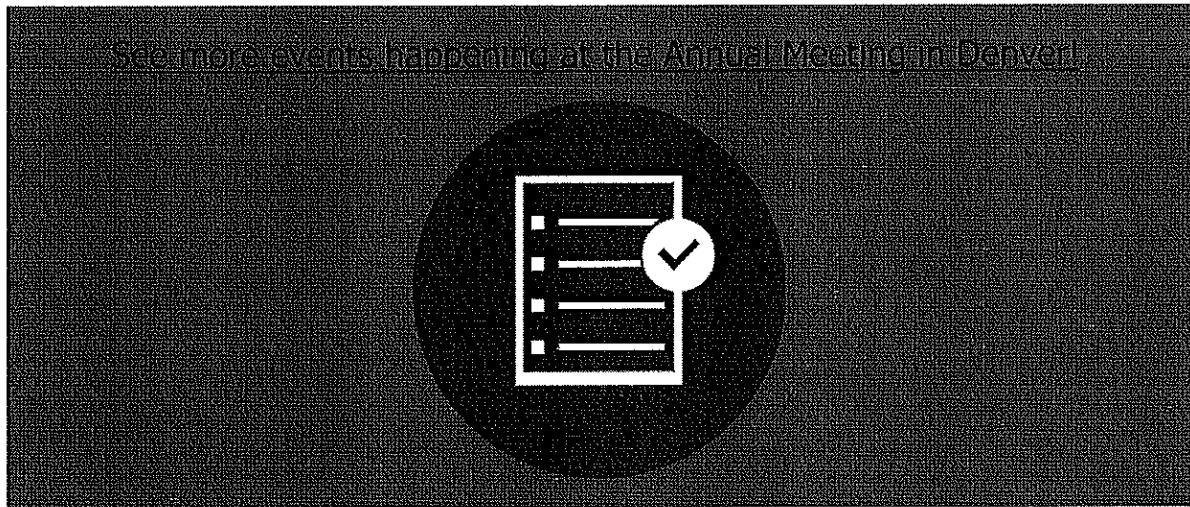
Want to know what's in the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights?

How about talking over the political science of importing TABOR into your state? What adjustments might have to be made to conform to your constitution?

Heard allegations that you want addressed? Have doubts?

Want the latest information on the results of lawsuits and their meanings?

The TABOR Committee will explain how a Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) can protect taxpayers from runaway government spending and taxation. You are invited to learn about the history, scope, and impact of Colorado's TABOR from one of the storied first proponents of the Colorado initiative, former Colorado State Representative Penn Pfiffner. He and other TABOR leaders will explain and give one-on-one advice to you how your state can benefit from similar proposals along with the requisite strategies to enact the vision.



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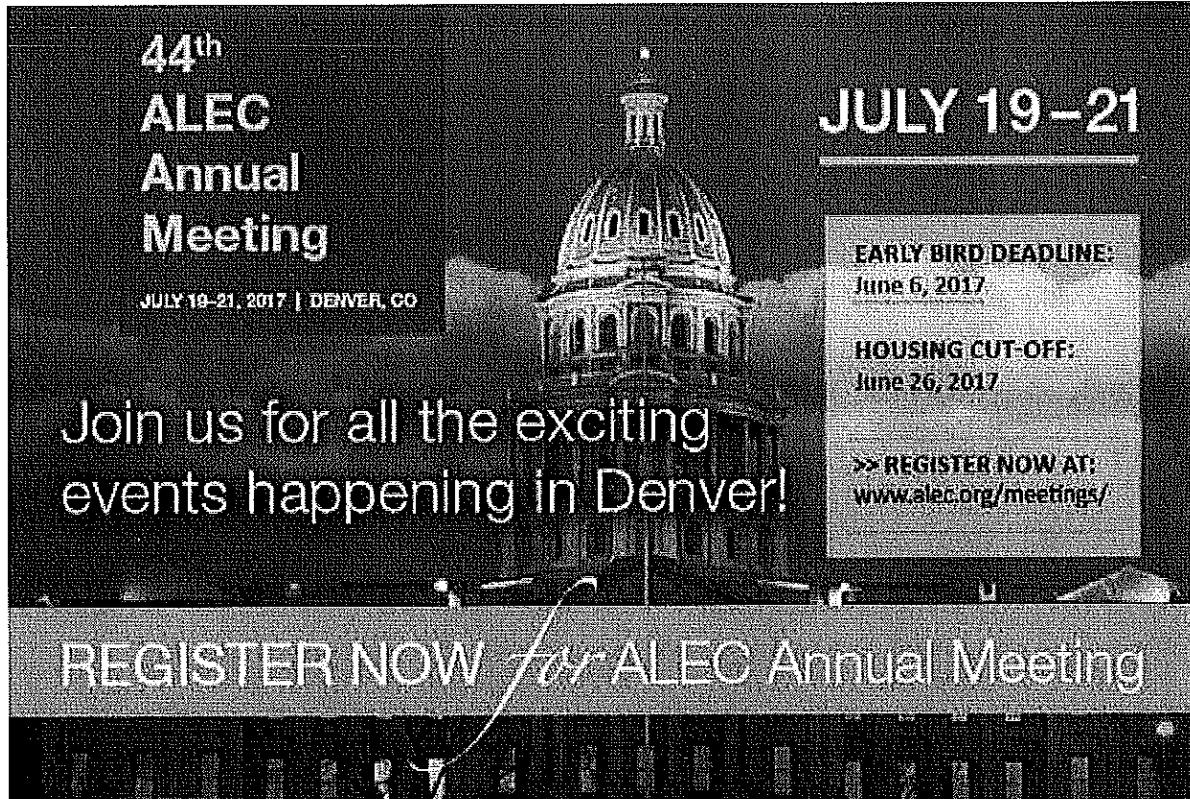
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ALEC Events Update

"First Fridays" Conference Call, Donor Disclosure and Donor Privacy: Chilling Effect on Free Speech and Association and Charitable Giving

On Friday, June 9th, the Center to Protect Free Speech held its inaugural "First Fridays" conference call. The call featured Sean Parnell of Philanthropy Roundtable. Mr. Parnell discussed donor privacy and why legislation designed to disclose donors to nonprofits organizations is harmful to private and corporate donors and the causes, organizations and people donors care about most.

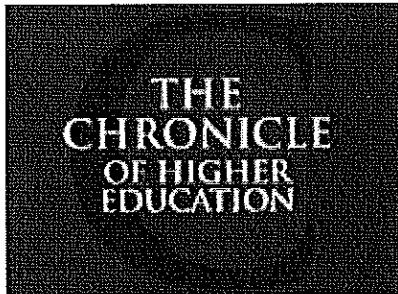
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Center Highlight

Why Conservative Lawmakers are Turning to Free Speech Bills as a Fix for Higher Ed

The Chronicle of Higher Education | B. McMurtie | Shelby Emmett



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[Read the Full Article](#)

= A Center Director Shelby Emmett was noted by the Chronicle of Higher Education yesterday, for the newly approved campus speech model policy, the *Forming Open and Robust University Minds (Forum) Act*. Emmett describes an effective approach to promoting campus free speech below.

"The legislature has a role to play because a public institution has an obligation to protect free speech," she says. "But there is an academic-freedom element to that, so we don't want a top-down approach."

[Click here for more.](#)



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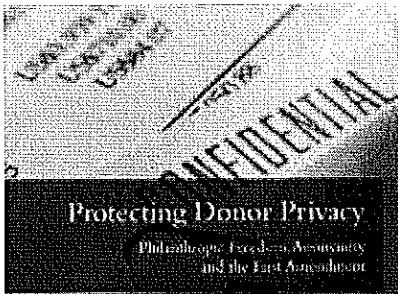
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Philanthropic Freedom, Anonymity and the First Amendment

Sean Parnell | Philanthropy Roundtable | Donor Privacy | Free Speech



[Read the Full Article](#)

Sean Parnell explains the rich tradition and history of anonymous giving, current threats to donor privacy and what Americans stand to lose if donor privacy is not protected.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Expert Opinion

New Law Chills Charitable Giving in New York by Violating Donors' Privacy

Crain's New York Business | Sean Delany | Laura Abel | Sharon Stapel



[Read the Full Article](#)

There are many good reasons a contributor might want to keep his or her identity and the amount of a contribution confidential: modesty, a fear of danger that would result from exposing the extent of the donor's wealth, a desire to avoid being targeted for funding requests, or wanting to make a donation anonymously to honor a loved one. The state has nothing to gain, and much to lose, by discouraging such people from donating to charity.

[Click here to find out how donor privacy protects your constitutional rights.](#)



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Expert Opinion

U.K. Charities 'Scared to Speak Out' During Elections

The Guardian | Vicky Browning | Donor Intimidation



[Read the Full Article](#)

Vicky Browning, who heads Acevo represents more than 1,000 charity chief executives, said many of her members had reported being 'too nervous, too anxious and too scared about the repercussions' to enter the political debate....'Charities are telling us they feel constrained, that they've been silenced.'

[Click here for more.](#)



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ALEC Model Policy

ALEC Model Resolution in Support of Nonprofit Donor Privacy

Civil Justice Task Force | Amy Kjose Anderson

In response to attempts to expand the scope and application of donor disclosure requirements to include donors to nonprofit organizations, this model policy resolves to oppose such efforts and protect the privacy of donors.

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ALEC's campus speech model policy, the Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act has been approved by the board and is now official ALEC model policy. This model policy applies to public institutions of higher education.

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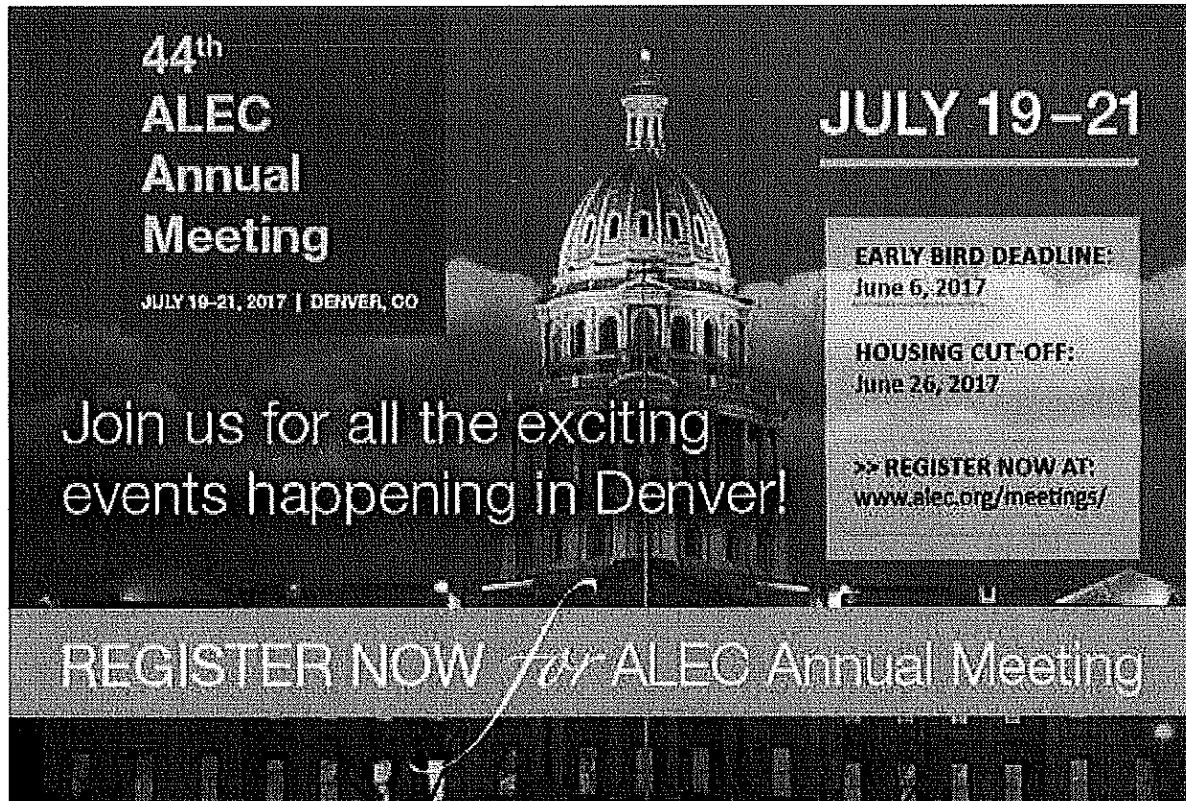
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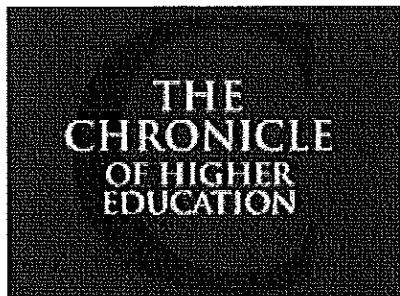
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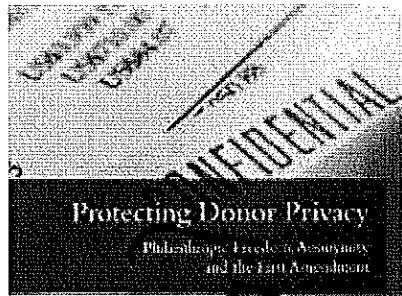
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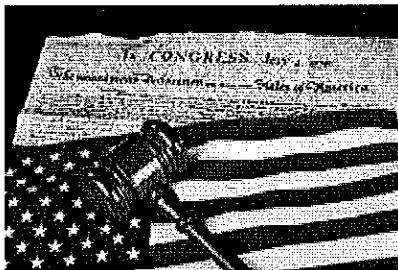


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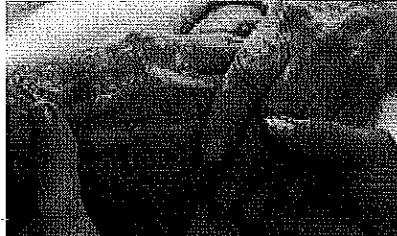


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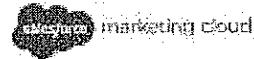
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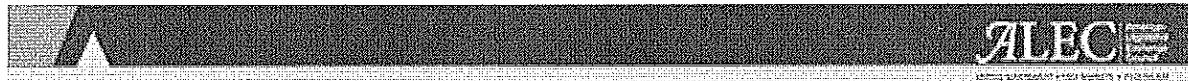
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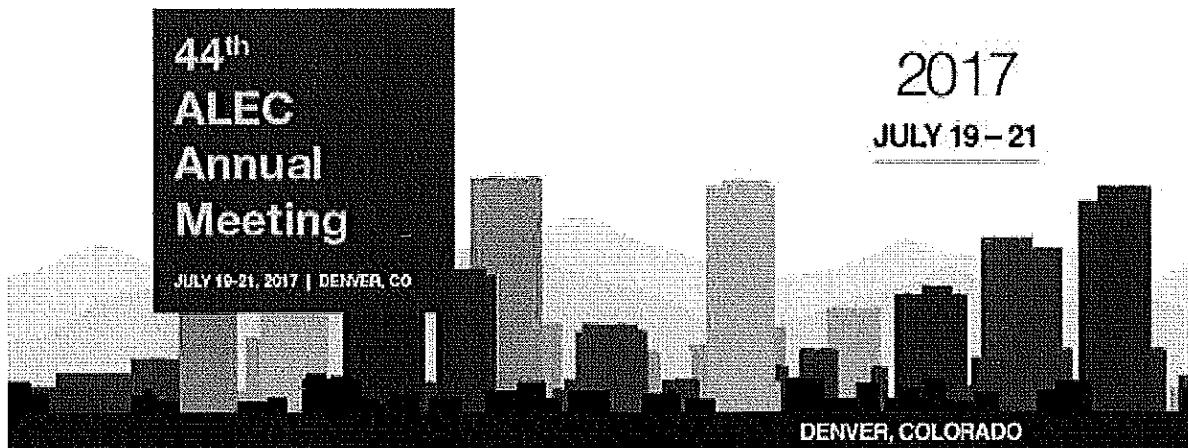
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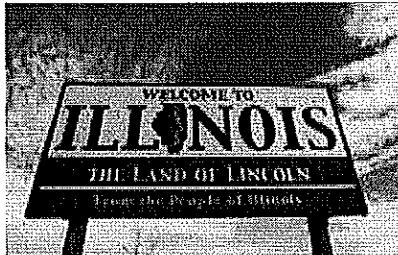
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Expert Opinion

Illinois Must Dig Itself Out of the Fiscal Ditch

Townhall | Jonathan Williams | Christine Smith | State Budget Reform



[Read the Full Article](#)

Finger-pointing is rampant in Illinois as the state's credit rating has been downgraded by S&P and Moody's to near junk status, the lowest ever for a state.

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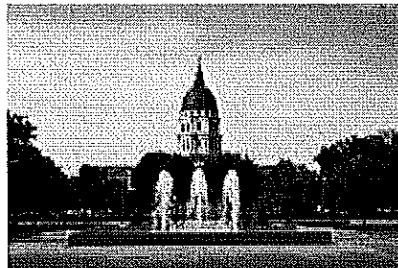


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Expert Insight

On the Kansas Budget Impasse, Look Beyond the Media Hype to the Facts

The Hill | Kansas Senator Ty Masterson | Joel Griffith



[Read the Full Article](#)

The Kansas impasse over how to resolve the budget gap and whether to impose drastic tax hikes has captured the attention of both the state and the nation. Task Force Director Joel Griffith, firmly suggests,

"If legislators value the marked improvement in Kansas jobs growth since the start of 2013, minimizing the tax burden of jobs creators, entrepreneurs, and workers should be at the forefront of a final agreement."

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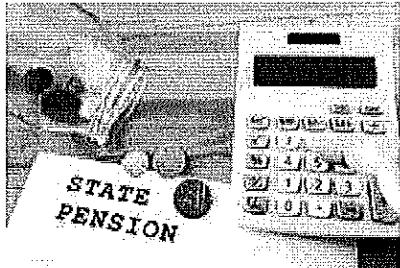


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Pension Expert Insight

Pension Obligation Bonds Could Unravel Pension Reform Victory

Joel Griffith | Thurston Powers | Pension Reform



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Recent pension reform progress in states like Pennsylvania could take two steps back, due to Pension Obligation Bonds (POB). POBs are simply not worth the risk of gambling with the hard earned money of both current and future taxpayers.

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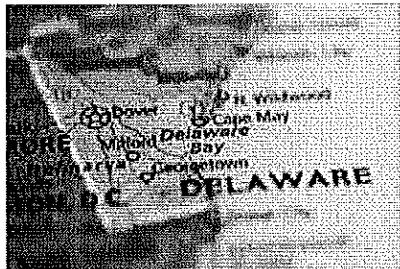


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Delaware Could Learn an Economic Lesson from North Carolina

The News Journal | Jonathan Williams | James P. Ursomarso



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When it comes to state budget problems, Delaware is not alone as it faces a nearly \$350 million gap. In fact, more than 30 states faced budget shortfalls this fiscal year.

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The Williams Report

State Budget Solutions | Bob Williams | Senior ALEC Scholar



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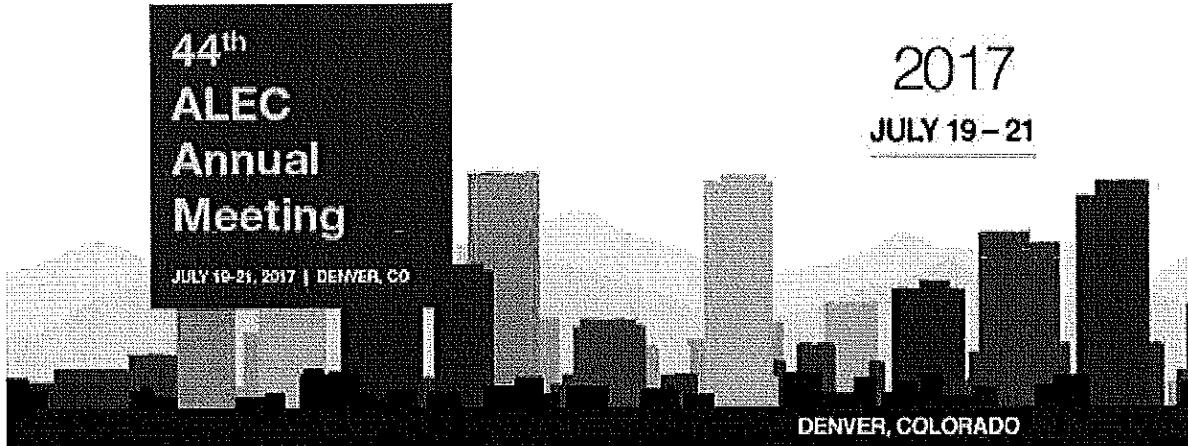
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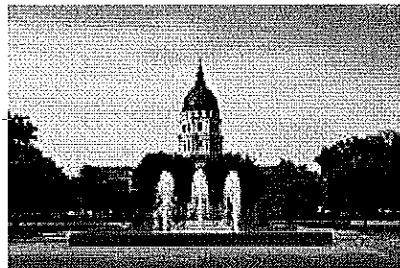


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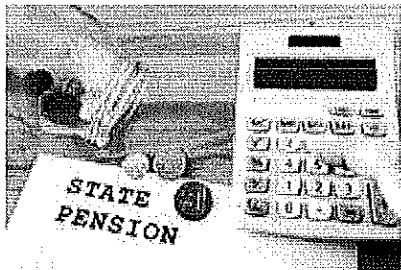


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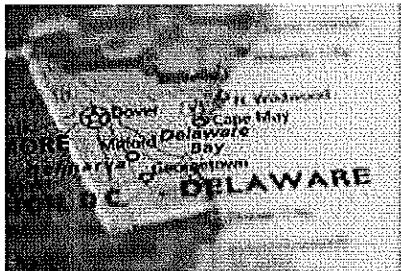


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The Williams Report

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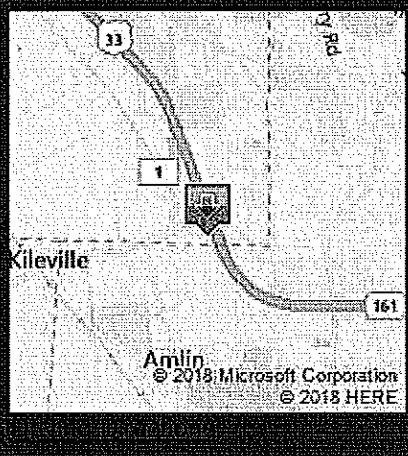
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In order to be healthy, we all need the opportunity to earn a sufficient income and live in affordable, safe housing. As providers, insurers and health departments increasingly are held accountable for improving population health, the need to address poverty and foster economic vitality becomes even more important. Policymakers often cite the need to improve our state's economic climate, however opinions on how to best accomplish this goal vary.

This forum explores state policy options to improve health outcomes and health equity by increasing economic development, labor force participation and income mobility.

Where

Ohio University Dublin
Integrated Education Center
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Dublin, OH 43016



Speakers include:

- * **Anjum Hajat**, University of Washington School of Public Health
- * **David Norris**, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity
- * **David Lipsetz**, Housing Assistance Council
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- * **Hannah Halbert**, Policy Matters Ohio
- * **Rea Hederman**, The Buckeye Institute
- * And more to be announced!

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Lunch will be served (vegetarian options available)

Registration begins at 9:00, with program starting at 9:30.

The forum general attendance fee is \$65.

Register Now!

HPIO has a limited number of PARTIAL scholarships available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please contact Hailey Akah at hakah@hpio.net.

Sincerely,

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Health Policy Institute of Ohio
hakah@hpio.net
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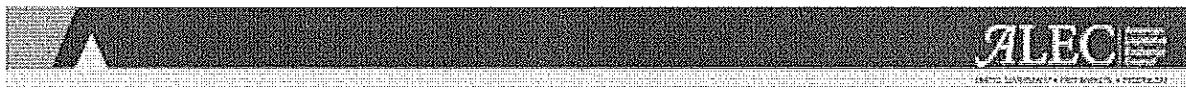
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Dear William,

Over the past three years, ALEC has experienced a period of dramatic growth that ran parallel to a national refocusing on the states and state-based, limited government policy. **Governed by the 2016-2018 Strategic Plan, ALEC has dramatically increased policy programming, membership, fundraising, media and public awareness.** Last year was our best fundraising year ever, and thus far this year we've recruited a near-record number of new members.

As we enter our 45th year as the leading state legislative, free market organization and begin the next strategic planning process, you can play an integral role in our future by sharing your thoughts—**by taking the 2017 ALEC member survey.**

ALEC is at its best when members identify and share the issues they are confronting in the states. For instance, ALEC was on the leading edge of discussion and model policy creation regarding the opioid epidemic because of Wisconsin Representative John Nygren's direction. Similarly, in response to requests from legislators around the country, ALEC is launching a new Task Force focused on Homeland Security (more on that below). These anecdotes are just a few that represent how ALEC can support your research and continuing education needs.

Please take 20 minutes to complete the ALEC member survey. It's among the most important things you can do to ensure ALEC continues to grow and serve legislators and stakeholders as it has done for more than two generations.

[Complete the Survey Here](#)

In a past member survey, we learned members wanted ALEC to be on the cutting edge of new issues and to provide more explainer content to help legislators quickly and easily understand the nuances of a granular piece of policy. And as a result, over the past two years the ALEC team has launched several new Centers or Task Forces as well as produced hundreds of videos.

Please take a moment to view two great new explainer videos on mandatory minimum sentencing and tax reform. And, please be sure to share them with your colleagues.

New policy content comes in many forms such as working groups. Many of you may have participated in the Homeland Security Working Group over the past three meetings. The new Homeland Security Task Force which will meet for the first time at the Denver Annual Meeting will focus on a myriad of security issues, from school security to cybersecurity, from first responders to infrastructure and everything in between to bring state legislators, local and county elected officials, and industry and thought leaders together for information sharing, and the creation of model policy. If you or one of your peers are interested in joining the task force please email Spencer Chretien schretien@alec.org.

ALEC is growing to serve its members. With an eye toward all we've accomplished over the past 45 years, we are headed toward a bright future where states will lead the way. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Denver Annual Meeting this month and appreciate you taking time to **complete the member survey**.

Sincerely,

Lisa B. Nelson
CEO



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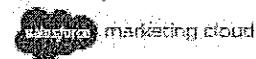
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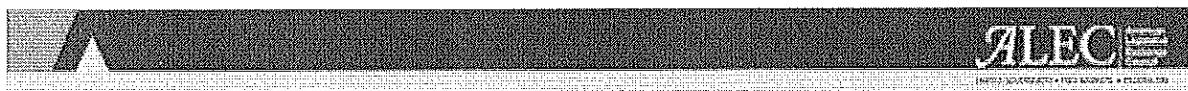
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From: Lisa B. Nelson
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2017 2:01 PM
To: Rep88
Subject: William, 20 Minutes is all I ask

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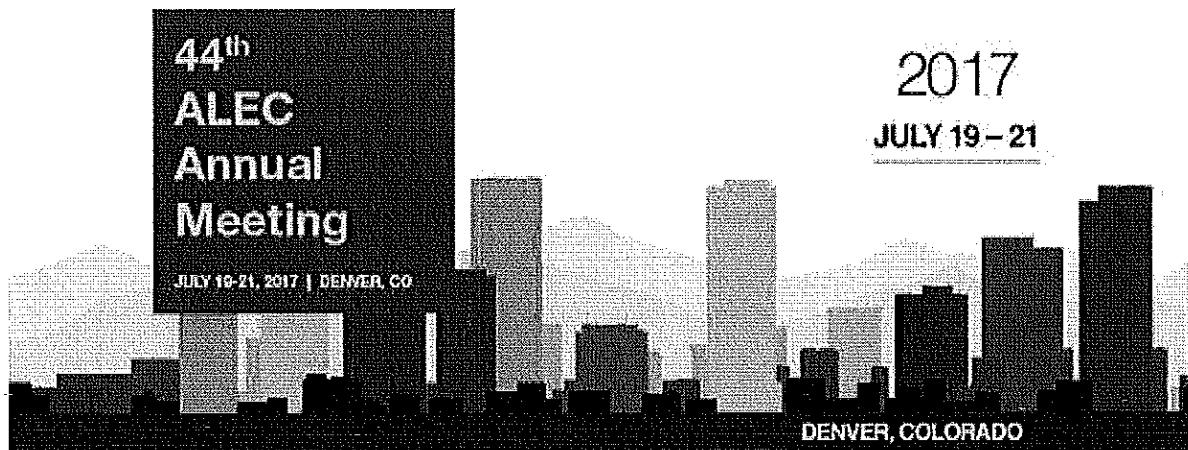
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CEO



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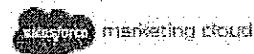
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Sent: Friday, July 7, 2017 4:24 PM
To: Rep88
Subject: Why Religion Belongs in the Classroom

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Friends,

I wanted to share an article I wrote for *Education Week*, a leading national paper on K-12 education.

**Why Religion Belongs in the Classroom:
Don't Shy Away from Teaching How Religion Has Shaped U.S. History**
<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2017/07/07/why-religion-belongs-in-the-classroom.html>

Here are a couple excerpts:

"To some, religion and the classroom are a toxic mix to be avoided at all cost. But should it be considered toxic when religion has played such an important role in shaping America's identity, purpose, and politics?..."

"Schools shouldn't run from the topic; they should embrace it. The better students understand the past, the better equipped they will be to face and shape our civic future."

The article features teacher resources in the Ashbrook Center's [Religion in American History and Civics Project](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support of our work at Ashbrook.

Best regards,

Roger L. Beckett
Executive Director

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From: Health Policy Institute of Ohio
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 9:10 AM
To: Rep88
Subject: Attend HPIO's forum "Linking health and wealth: How economic vitality can lead to healthier Ohioans"

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HPIO Forum
Linking health and wealth: How economic vitality can lead to healthier Ohioans

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Dear William,



When

Thursday, July 27, 2017 from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM EDT

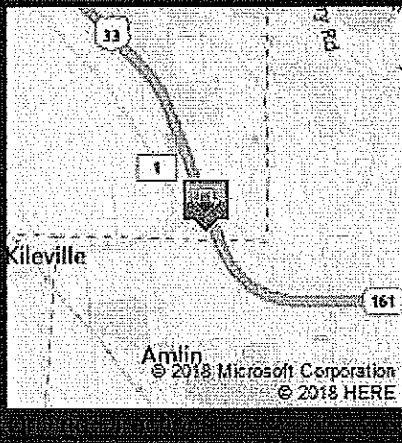
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In order to be healthy, we all need the opportunity to earn a sufficient income and live in affordable, safe housing. As providers, insurers and health departments increasingly are held accountable for improving population health, the need to address poverty and foster economic vitality becomes even more important. Policymakers often cite the need to improve our state's economic climate, however opinions on how to best accomplish this goal vary.

This forum explores state policy options to improve health outcomes and health equity by increasing economic development, labor force participation and income mobility.

Where

Ohio University Dublin
Integrated Education Center
6805 Bobcat Way
Dublin, OH 43016



Speakers include:

- * **Anjum Hajat**, University of Washington School of Public Health
- * **David Norris**, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity
- * **David Lipsetz**, Housing Assistance Council
- = A
- * **Hannah Halbert**, Policy Matters Ohio
- * **Rea Hederman**, The Buckeye Institute

Panelists include:

- * **Alex Derkson**, JPMorgan Chase
- * **Sally Levy**, United Way of Central Ohio
- * **Mary Helen Petrus**, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland

Lunch will be served (vegetarian options available)

Registration begins at 9:00, with program starting at 9:30.

The forum general attendance fee is \$65.

Register Now!

HPIO has a limited number of PARTIAL scholarships available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please contact Hailey Akah at hakah@hpio.net.

Sincerely,

Hailey Akah
Health Policy Institute of Ohio
hakah@hpio.net
614-545-0752

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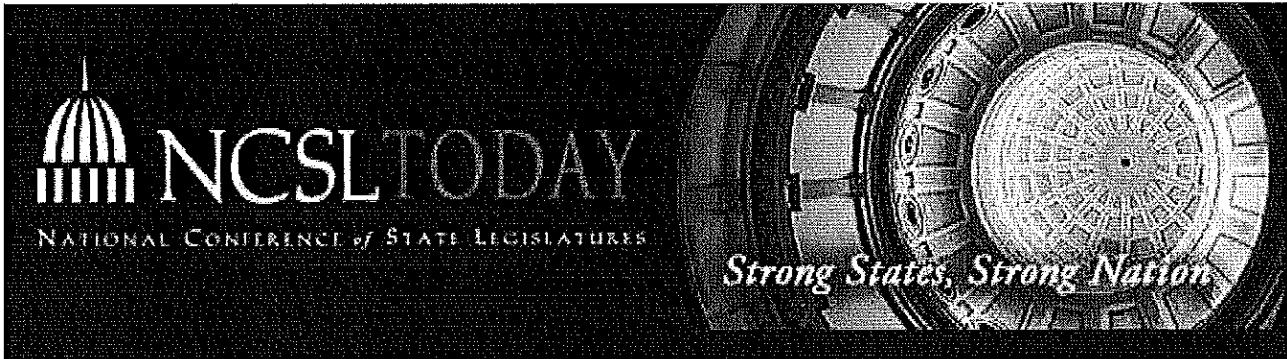
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From: NCSL TODAY
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2017 10:42 AM
To: Rep88
Subject: State election officials fear feds are making security worse

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TOP NEWS July 13, 2017

State election officials fear feds are making security worse

Governing

Secretaries of state are concerned about not just the federal government's request for voter information but also the information they're not getting about election security breaches.

U.S. appeals court upholds Wisconsin's right-to-work law

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

A federal appeals court on Wednesday upheld Wisconsin's law that bars collective bargaining agreements requiring workers to pay union fees.

Five states face budget uncertainty in new fiscal year

Reuters

Connecticut, Wisconsin and Rhode Island's legislatures have not yet passed a budget, while Massachusetts' budget awaits action from state Governor Charlie Baker to either sign or veto it. **NCSL's Erica MacKeller quoted.**

Medical pot industry wants in on soaring pot sales

The Chicago Tribune

Sales of products containing CBD, or cannabidiol, increased 30 percent to \$262 million nationwide last year, according to the Hemp Business Journal. By



Commentator/pollster Frank Luntz featured speaker at Legislative Summit

Frank Luntz is one of the nation's foremost political commentators and pollsters. Known as the Focus Group Czar, he captures the attitudes of American voters on politics, policies and the direction of the country. He will speak during Tuesday's general session

2020, the industry trade journal projects that figure to leap to more than \$1 billion, with most of those sales from hemp, not medical marijuana. **NCSL** research cited.

California lawmakers delay climate vote amid push for affordable housing

The Los Angeles Times

While conversations over climate change have dominated recent debate at the Capitol, California lawmakers are accelerating bills to address the state's housing affordability crisis, and may vote on a series of measures before they break for summer recess next Friday.

State lotteries fight 'jackpot fatigue,' casino competition

Stateline

With lottery proceeds flat or declining, and states reluctant to raise taxes to make up the difference, pressure is mounting to keep players playing and money rolling in.

Capitol to Capitol state-federal newsletter

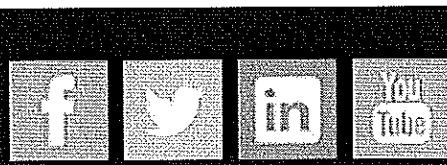
Friday webinar: Cybertechnology and the law

The Canvass elections newsletter



States tackling 'balance billing' issue

The practice of a provider billing a patient for the difference between what they received in reimbursement from an insurance carrier and what they actually charge for their services is known as balance billing, or a surprise bill, and it's not uncommon.



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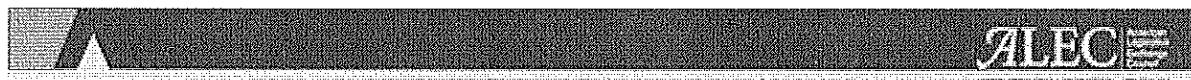
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From: American Legislative Exchange Council
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 12:30 PM
To: Rep88
Subject: William, here's what you need to know for the meeting

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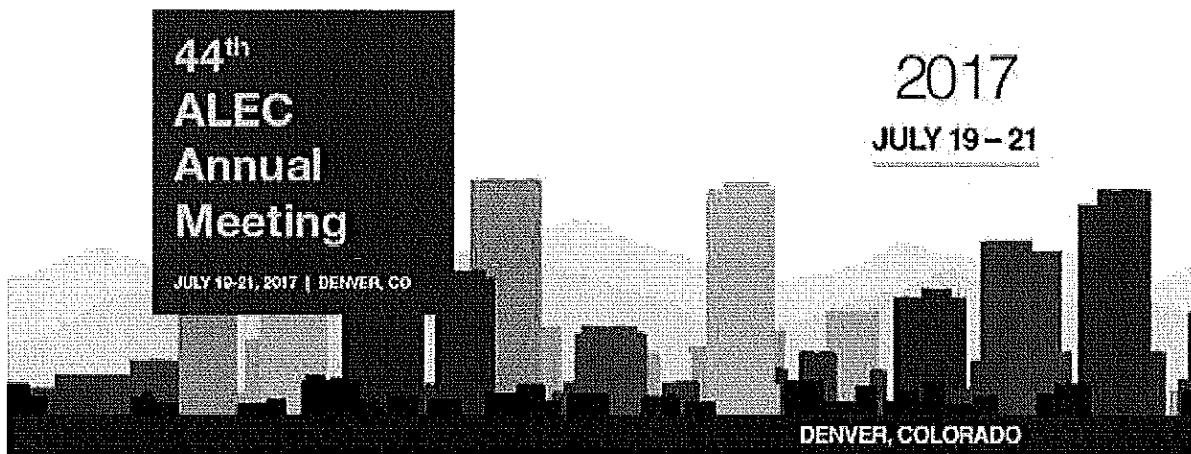
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July 18, 2017



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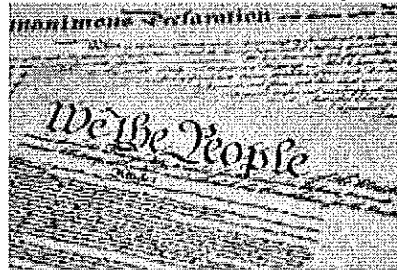
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44th ALEC Annual Meeting

Federalism and International Relations Task Force Meeting Look Ahead

Contact Karla Jones for Further Details: kjones@alec.org



As one of the ALEC guiding principles, federalism will take center stage at the ALEC Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado, July 19-21, 2017, and here are some of the highlights.

The Federalism and International Relations Subcommittees will meet on Wednesday, July 19 from 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM and the Task Force on Friday, July 21 from 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM. Federalism-focused segments included in the link below.

[Click Here for Meeting Details](#)

NEW: ALEC Video

Policy 101: Foreign Aid Explained

Policy Explainer Video | Karla Jones | A Sarah Wood Production



Federalism and International Relations Task Force Director lays out the truth behind foreign aid.

"What if I told you that one of the most effective weapons in America's national security arsenal is also one of its least expensive? In fact, it makes up less than one percent of the federal budget."

[Click here for more.](#)



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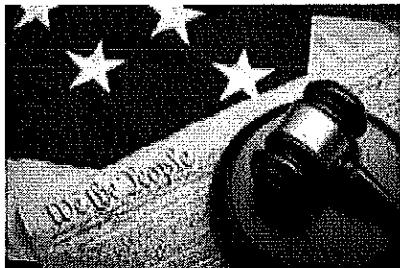


Forward

Administration Update

ALEC Is Newest Member of Advisory Council of the Speaker's Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs

Karla Jones | Federalism



[Read the Full Article](#)

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Earlier this month, ALEC was invited to join the Advisory Council of the U.S. House Speaker's Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs. Chaired by Utah Congressman Rob Bishop, the Task Force has a five-fold mission.

[Click here for more.](#)



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Expert Insight

Release of the 2017 International Property Rights Index: On the (Property) Right Track

Joseph "Cy" Tongate | Intellectual Property



[Read the Full Article](#)

On July 11, the Americans for Tax Reform Property Rights Alliance released its *2017 International Property Rights Index*, which measures Physical Property Rights, Intellectual Property Rights and the prevailing Legal and Political Environment in 127 countries representing 98 percent of global GDP. *The International Property Rights Index* ranks countries on a scale of one to ten, with ten being a perfect property rights score.



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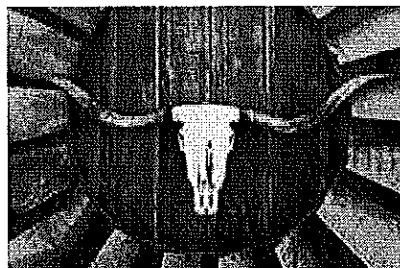


Forward

Expert Opinion

Postcards From Texas: Part II

Joseph "Cy" Tongate | Federalism | Texas



ALEC Intern, Cy provides a look into the unique pride Texans have in their home states' historic independence. Click the link below for a fresh perspective on the political network that runs deep in the heart of Texas.

[Click here for more.](#)



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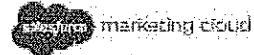
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From: Health Policy Institute of Ohio
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Subject: There's still time! Attend HPIO's forum "Linking health and wealth: How economic vitality can lead to healthier Ohioans"

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HPIO Forum Linking health and wealth: How economic vitality can lead to healthier Ohioans

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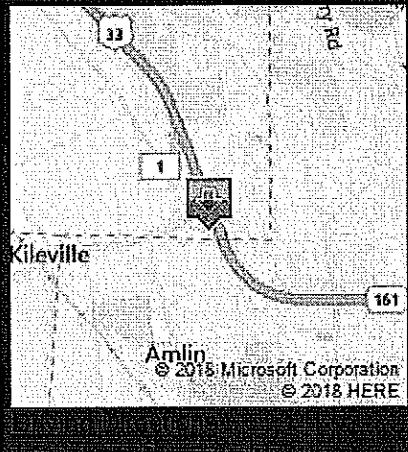
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- * **David Lipsetz**, Housing Assistance Council
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Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 9:14 AM
To: Rep88
Subject: How Does the American Public Spend Money on the Arts?

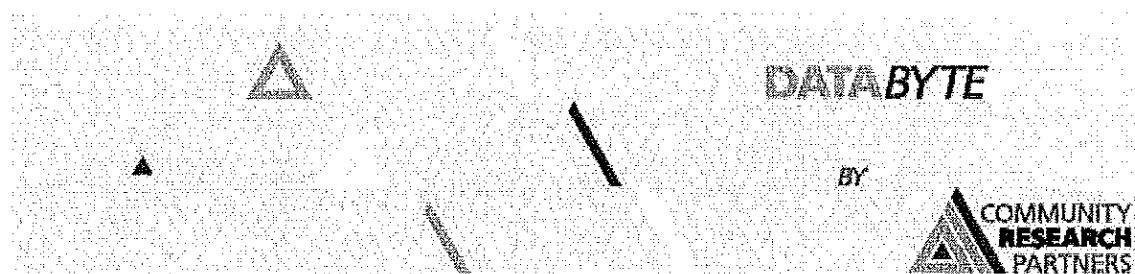
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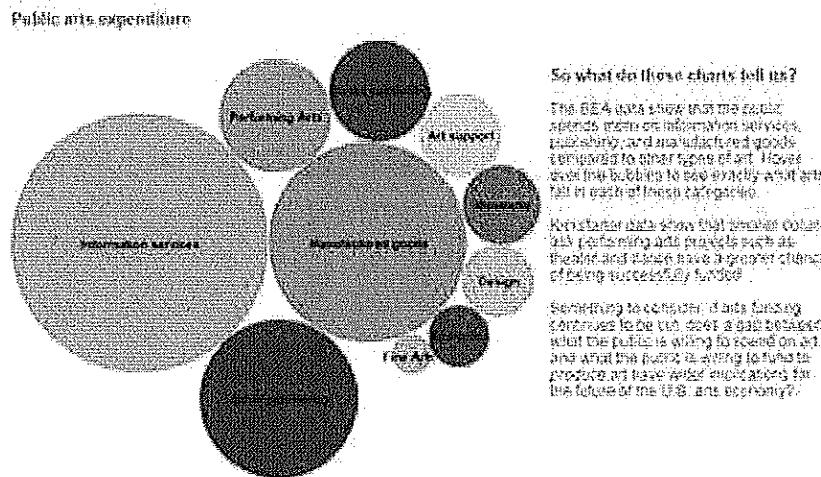
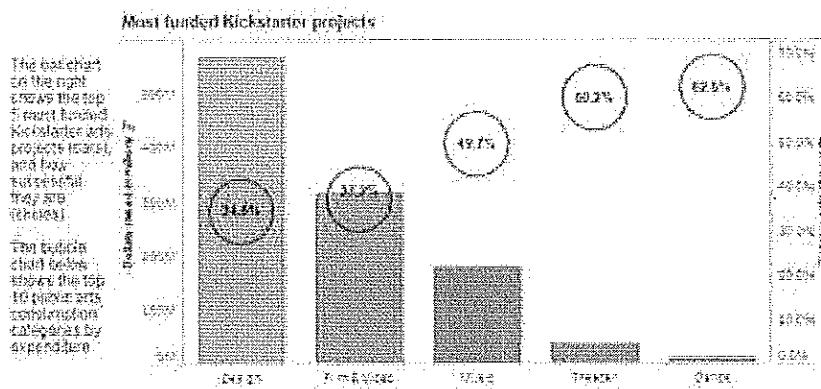
In a budget proposed by the Trump administration, funding would be removed from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Americans for the Arts estimates the value of the United States' arts and culture industry at \$730b annually, with a \$26b trade surplus. But just how exactly does the American public spend their hard-earned dollars on the arts? Click the picture below to view the visualizations.





How does the American public spend money on the arts?

In a budget process by the Trump administration, funding would be removed from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). A proposal for the cuts estimates the cost of the United States' arts and culture industry at \$13.8 billion, with a \$3.5 billion cut proposed but not fully enacted due to a political stalemate. House Republicans' version of the 2018 budget resolution included the NEA and NEH in a category of "non-essential" programs.



కృష్ణ వీర ముండు శివరాత్రి పాట

The B24 data show that the fault network is an information network, having a clear and well-defined spatial organization. The data are consistent with the hypothesis that the network is a system of interconnected nodes.

Kristen and I show that greater collective performing and greater focus on the self and others have a greater chance of being successful judges.

Something to consider in this thinking
continues to be the fact that a gas becomes
what the public is going to come on at
and what the public is going to think of
product at these high crude prices for
the future of the U.S. and Germany?

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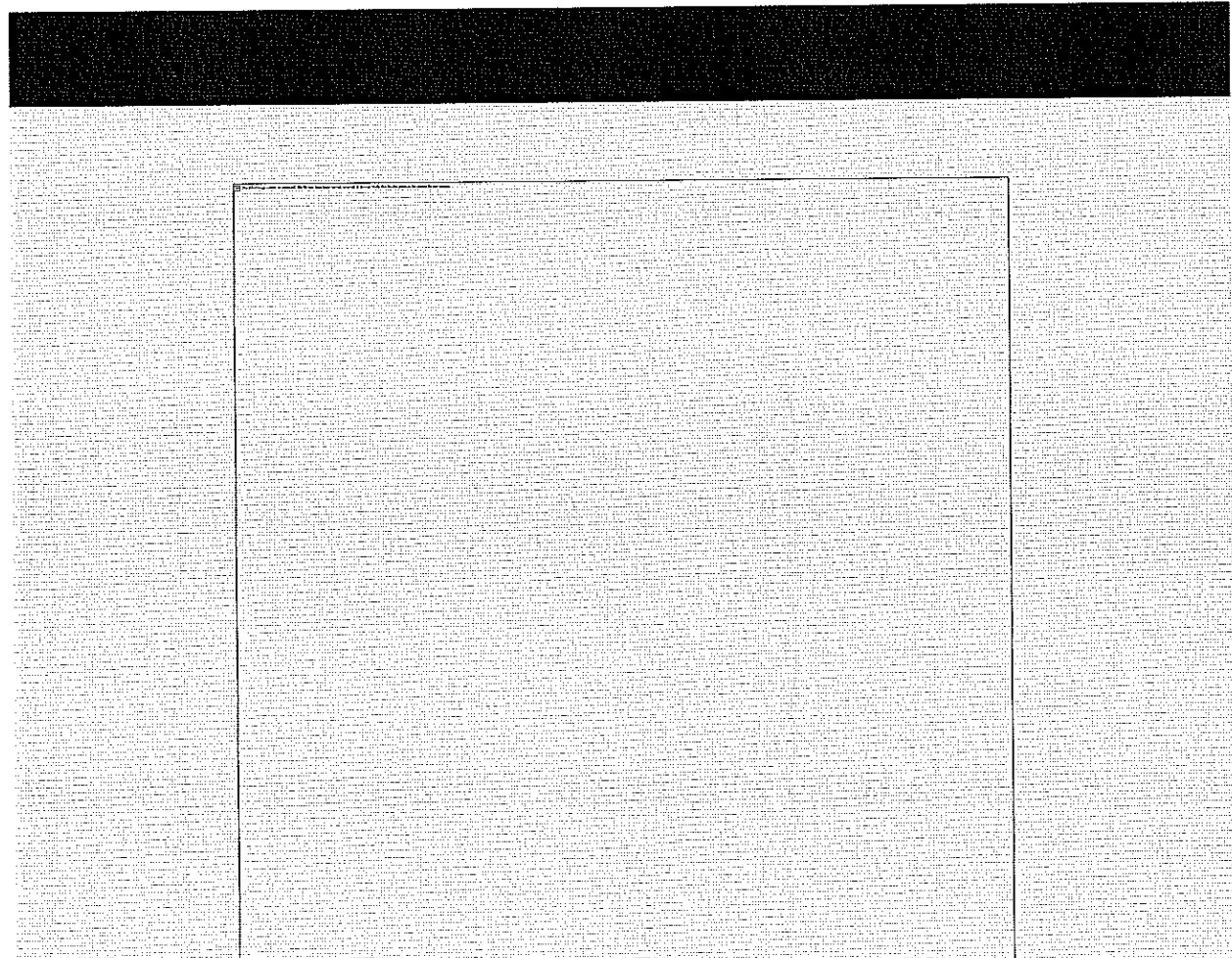
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To: Rep88
Subject: Morning Consult Washington: Trump's Team Investigating Mueller's Team
Attachments: ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm



By Eli Yokley

Top Stories

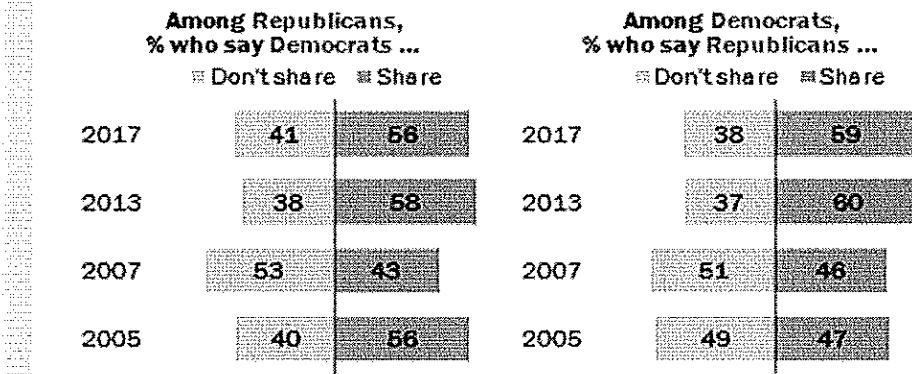
- Lawyers and aides to President Donald Trump are investigating the investigators hired by special counsel Robert Mueller, scouring their records for potential conflicts of interest in an attempt to discredit their work. Trump has said Mueller's team would be outside its mandate if they moved beyond Russia and into his personal finances. ([The New York Times](#))
- House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) went to a factory in Massachusetts to pitch his tax reform plan, calling a 20 percent business tax rate "realistic." Republicans are aiming to pass comprehensive tax reform this year. ([CNBC](#))
- The United States is said to be preparing a ban on Americans traveling to North Korea. The reported policy shift follows the death of Otto Warmbier, a U.S. student who died after being imprisoned in North Korea, where he was on a tour. ([Reuters](#))

Chart Review

Since Trump's Election, Increased Attention to Politics - Especially Among Women
Pew Research Center

Most partisans say - aside from politics - those in the other party share many of their other values and goals

% who say, though they feel differently about politics, members of the other party probably ____ many of my other values and goals



Note: Based on partisans. Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Survey conducted June 27-July 9, 2017.

Trends from CBS (2012, 2005) and CBS/NYT (2007) surveys.

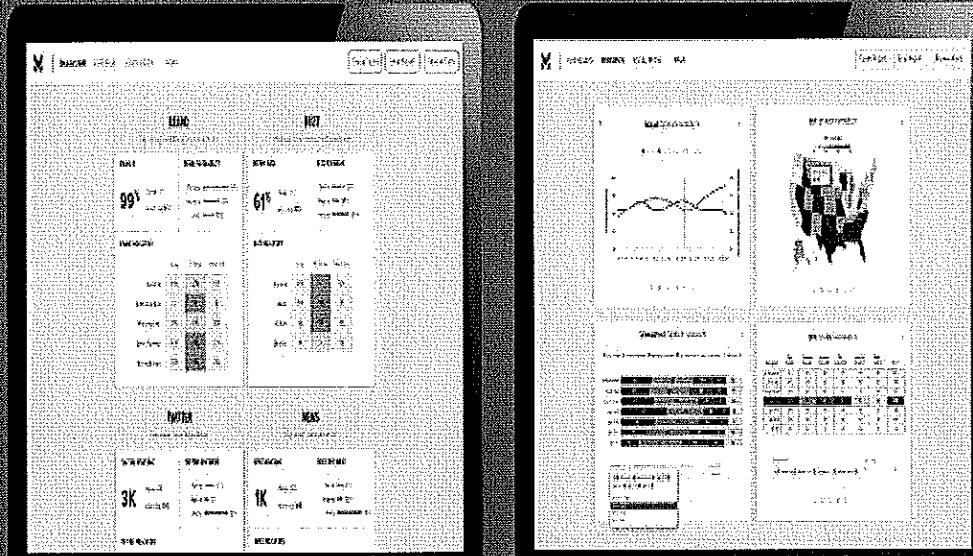
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Events Calendar (All Times Local)

FRIDAY

No events scheduled

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General

Tour operators say U.S. to ban citizens from travel to North Korea

Se Young Lee and James Pearson, Reuters

Two tour agencies that arrange trips to North Korea said on Friday the U.S. government will soon ban its citizens from traveling there, after the death of a U.S. student arrested there while on a tour. Koryo Tours said the ban would be announced on July 27 and would go into effect 30 days later.

Moscow in talks with U.S. to create cyber security working group - RIA report

Denis Pinchuk, Reuters

Moscow and Washington are in talks to create a joint cyber security working group, Russia's RIA news agency reported on Thursday, citing Andrey Krutskikh, a special presidential envoy on cyber security. "The talks are underway ... different proposals are being exchanged, nobody denies the necessity of holding the talks and of having such contacts," Krutskikh said, according to RIA.

The strange legal battle that is pitting Trump's secretaries of the Treasury and State against each other

Damian Paletta and Carol Morello, The Washington Post

Two of President Trump's most senior cabinet members became embroiled Thursday in an unusual legal battle over whether ExxonMobil under Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's leadership violated U.S. sanctions against Russia. Treasury officials fined ExxonMobil \$2 million Thursday morning for signing eight business agreements in 2014 with Igor Sechin, the chief executive of Rosneft, an energy giant partially owned by the Russian government.

Presidential

Trump Aides, Seeking Leverage, Investigate Mueller's Investigators

Michael S. Schmidt et al., The New York Times

President Trump's lawyers and aides are scouring the professional and political backgrounds of investigators hired by the special counsel Robert S. Mueller III, looking for conflicts of interest they could use to discredit the investigation - or even build a case to fire Mr. Mueller or get some members of his team recused, according to three people with knowledge of the research effort. The search for potential conflicts is wide-ranging.

Mueller Expands Probe to Trump Business Transactions

Greg Farrell and Christian Berthelsen, Bloomberg

The U.S. special counsel investigating possible ties between the Donald Trump campaign and Russia in last year's election is examining a broad range of transactions involving Trump's businesses as well as those of his associates, according to a person familiar with the probe. FBI investigators and others are looking at Russian purchases of apartments in Trump buildings, Trump's involvement in a controversial SoHo development in New York with Russian associates, the 2013 Miss Universe pageant in Moscow and Trump's sale of a Florida mansion to a Russian oligarch in 2008, the person said.

Trump expected to make Scaramucci communications director

Jonathan Swan, Axios

President Trump is expected to announce that Wall Street financier Anthony Scaramucci will be White House communications director, according to two sources familiar with the planning. Trump has left the role open since Mike Dubke resigned in May, and the President has vented frequently to his friends about the performance of his press operation.

The Trump Administration Wants To Loosen Bear Hunting Rules In Alaska Parks

Nidhi Subbaraman, BuzzFeed News

The Interior Department is directing the National Park Service to overturn controversial hunting rules in public park lands in Alaska, according to a memo obtained by the National Parks Conservation Association. The July 14 memo was written by Virginia Johnson, a political appointee at Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's office.

Senate

GOP Senators Take Sessions' Side in Spat With Trump

David Hawkings, Roll Call

Confronted with the rare and awkward choice of siding with either a president of their party or a Cabinet member who's a former colleague, Senate Republicans are sounding of single mind: Attorney General Jeff Sessions, until five months ago a senior GOP senator from Alabama, has done nothing to merit the upbraiding he's been taking from President Donald Trump. Being a former member of one of the most exclusive clubs in American politics, it seems, has privileges - including insulation from a wave of piling on when your job seems in jeopardy.

GOP Floats Proposal to Ease Medicaid Cuts
Louise Radnofsky and Kristina Peterson, The Wall Street Journal

Senate Republicans, scrambling to win support for their health-care bill, pushed a measure Thursday that they said could ease the impact of the bill's Medicaid cuts on low-income people. Advocating for the new direction is a little-known health official who is now at the center of the health-care fight: Seema Verma, head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which oversees the two federal medical programs.

Under fire for opposing health bill, Mike Lee hits back
Burgess Everett and Jennifer Haberkorn, Politico

Mike Lee hears the chorus of critics, with blame from the establishment wing of the GOP cascading on the Utah senator for being the Republican that stopped Obamacare repeal. And he's ready to respond.

Trump Admin Actively Encouraging Kid Rock to Run for Senate, Want to Help Campaign, Insiders Say
Benny Johnson, Independent Journal Review

Some Trump administration officials are actively looking for ways to help Kid Rock run and win a U.S. Senate seat in Michigan, according to multiple sources close to the administration. Two people with detailed knowledge of internal White House political dealings spoke on the condition of anonymity with Independent Journal Review, and cited a heavy curiosity by administration officials over the rap/rock superstar's flirtation with running for office.

Harry Reid's Legacy Hangs Over Nevada Senate Race
Eli Yokley, Morning Consult

As she considers a U.S. Senate run, Democratic Rep. Dina Titus could find herself going up against the political machine built by former Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid during his decades in Nevada politics.

Many strategists, elected officials and outside groups - from Nevada to Washington, D.C. - aligned almost instantly with Rep. Jacky Rosen, the first-term Democrat whom Reid and his leadership successor, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), recruited to carry the party's torch against Republican Sen. Dean Heller next fall.

House

Paul Ryan says tax reform will get done because GOP is 'much more unified' on issue

Christine Wang, CNBC

House Speaker Paul Ryan said he feels more confident that tax reform can get done this year than a health-care overhaul because Republicans are "wired the same way" on the issue. "Obviously, as you can see in the Senate, there is a difference of opinions on how to do health-care reform. We are so much more unified on tax reform, on what it looks like, and how to do it and the need to do it," the Wisconsin Republican told reporters Thursday.

House Republicans try to revive ban on Pentagon transgender surgeries

Rachael Bade, Politico

Several House Republicans are working behind the scenes to revive a failed effort to bar the Pentagon from funding gender reassignment surgeries for troops. A mix of GOP defense hawks and conservatives are urging Speaker Paul Ryan and his team to use a procedural trick to automatically include the controversial proposal in a spending package set for floor consideration next week.

House Tees Up Vote Next Week on Bid to Undo CFPB

Arbitration Rule

Ryan Rainey, Morning Consult

The House will vote next week on a resolution that would block the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's new rule that bars banks from requiring arbitration clauses in consumer contracts, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) said Thursday. The resolution, H.J. Res. 111, was introduced by Rep. Keith Rothfus (R-Pa.) with the backing from every Republican member of the House Financial Services Committee.

States

Democratic state attorneys general urge Trump to keep DACA, say it has boosted economy

Maria Sacchetti, The Washington Post

Attorneys general from 19 states and the District of Columbia are urging President Trump to save an Obama-era program that protects nearly 800,000 undocumented immigrants from deportation, and offering to help him defend it in court. Led by California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, the group of Democrats is twice the size of the 10-state coalition of Republican officials that have threatened to sue the Trump administration if it does not start to phase out the program by Sept. 5.

Gillespie shifts from avoiding Trump to dropping the president's name

Laura Vozzella, The Washington Post

Two little words are on Ed Gillespie's lips of late: "President Trump." Since launching his bid for Virginia governor, the establishment

Republican had treated the man in the White House like a Voldemortian unmentionable.

Texas businesses rallying against bathroom bill
Chris Tomlinson, Houston Chronicle

When did it become OK for the state's top politicians to ignore Texas executives on issues critical to our economic future? Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick are reviving their bill that would deny transgender Texans the liberty to live public lives.

Advocacy

Koch network prepares pivot to tax reform
Maggie Severns, Politico

A political group backed by Charles and David Koch will soon kick off a multi-million dollar campaign in support of overhauling the tax code that is poised to become the Koch network's closest collaboration with the White House. The Koch-funded Americans for Prosperity will launch its new tax reform efforts on Aug. 2 at the Newseum, according to an invitation reviewed by POLITICO.

Small Banks Warn Lawmakers Against 'Extreme' Overhaul of GSE Rules
Anna Gronewold, Morning Consult

Amid efforts to overhaul Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac as they deplete their capital buffer, small lenders are warning against actions they say could be disastrous for community-based mortgage lending. Representatives from small banks and credit unions on Thursday urged the Senate Banking Committee to avoid mirroring previous congressional

proposals regarding government-sponsored enterprises and instead called for changes to level the playing field for all mortgage lenders.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Sessions Hangs In There

The Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal

The White House said Thursday that President Trump still has confidence in Attorney General Jeff Sessions, but after the past two days the better question is whether Mr. Sessions still has confidence in the President. Mr. Trump needs the AG at this point more than the reverse.

Obama stood up to Russian interference. Now Trump must follow through.

Denis McDonough, The Washington Post

I have watched with concern the tone, substance and trajectory of the national debate about Russian efforts to interfere in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. I write today to set the record straight about the events of last fall and, more important, to ensure that we as a nation do not lose sight of what happened - and what we must do to preserve our democracy.

Trump, ObamaCare and the Art of the Fail

Peggy Noonan, The Wall Street Journal

It was a political drubbing of the first order. A new Republican president and a Republican Senate and House put everything they had into a bill to repeal and replace ObamaCare, and couldn't do it. The leadership is rocked.

A Republican Health Care Fix
J. D. Vance, The New York Times

Imagine a young father stepping into the street. He is alert and conscientious.

To Shrink Jails, Let's Reform Bail
Kamala D. Harris and Rand Paul, The New York Times

Kalief Browder, a 16-year-old New Yorker, was arrested on charges of stealing a backpack in 2010. To ensure he would show up for trial, and because of a previous offense, the judge set bail at \$3,000.

John McCain Is a National Treasure
Dov Zakheim, Foreign Policy

I first got to know John McCain when I was a fresh-faced analyst at the recently established Congressional Budget Office and he was a captain in the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs. We dealt briefly with each other when he served in the House of Representatives, and I was an official in Caspar Weinberger's Defense Department.

Research Reports and Polling

On Abortion, Americans Discern Between Immoral and Illegal
Frank Newport and Robert Bird, Gallup

Americans are often more likely to view behaviors as morally wrong than they are to advocate that these behaviors be made illegal. This underscores a general tendency for Americans to hesitate before deciding that banning an action is appropriate.



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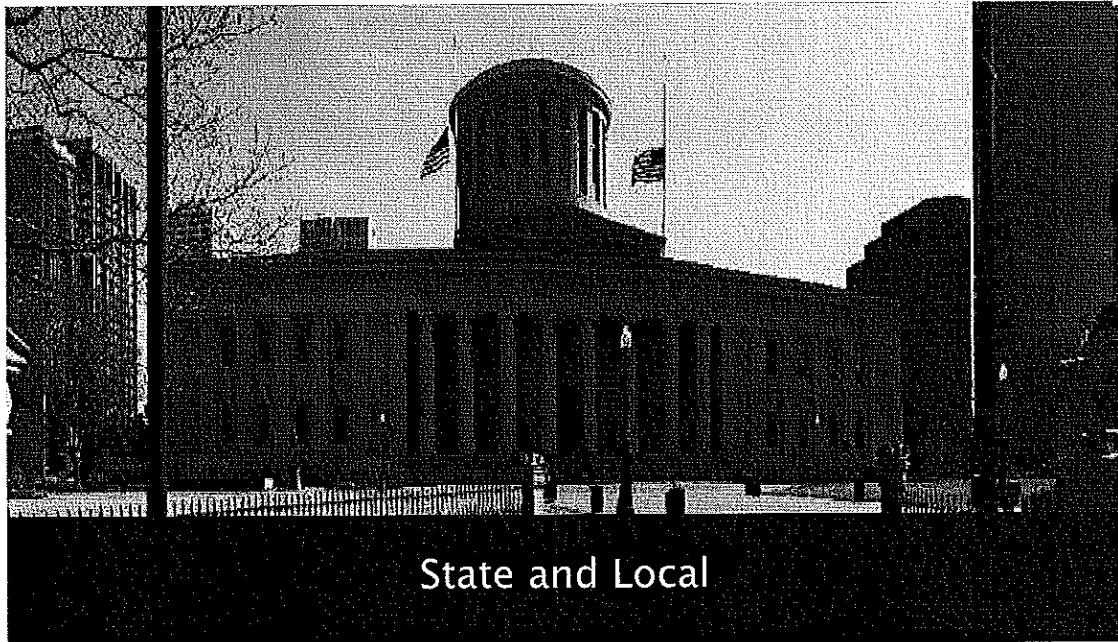
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Monday Mirror

*All the news you missed last week to
prepare you for the week ahead*

Monday July 24, 2017



State and Local

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= A **Marsy's Law**, intended to strengthen crime victims rights, will head to the November ballot.

GOP chair Timken is interviewed by 3rd Rail Politics.

Ohio climbs in the **business friendly rankings**, and Battelle hires a **new CEO**.

The EPA sues to **keep Lake Erie clean**.

Three Ohio inmates ask for a **death penalty reprieve**.

And, this week marked the anniversary of a great Ohioan's history making moment: July 20 marks 48 years since Neil Armstrong's famous step, leap, and broadcast to Houston from Tranquility Base.



President Trump - reluctantly - **certifies the Iran Deal**, and **Rep. Mike Turner** urges we **continue** to hold the regime accountable.

Both the **Grey Lady** and **Cleveland's hometown paper** take a look at how key **Senator Rob Portman** was in the health care fight.

The Plain Dealer looks at what an **\$800 million cut in Medicaid** would do to Ohio seniors as **Gov. Kasich** offers **another way forward**.

Senator Sherrod Brown comes out in opposition to the president's Sixth Circuit Appeals Court nominee.

Ohio's delegation still thinks Congress will plan on **aseries of accomplishments** before break.

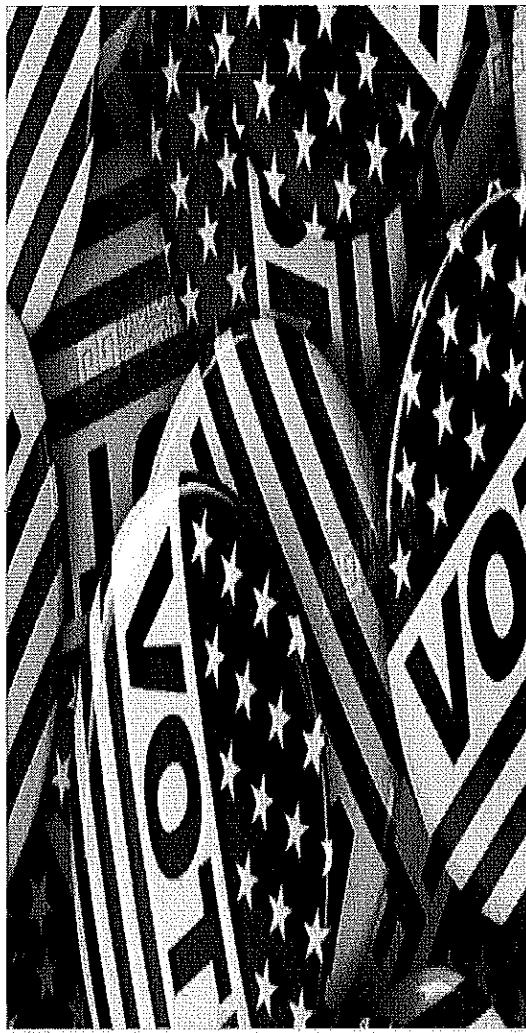
The State Department's **War Crimes Office** may disband and it considers **transferring a refugee office** from Foggy Bottom to Homeland Security.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer speaks **against BDS** from the Senate floor and **Vice President Mike Pence** promises the embassy **will move to Jerusalem**.

The Education Secretary says parents should never have to sue for **special education vouchers**.

And, yes, **Cyndi Lauper** did bring **Maine Senator Susan Collins** up on stage.

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On the Campaign Trail

VP Mike Pence will be here in **Columbus** for the GOP dinner, and **President Trump** heads to a **rally** in **Youngstown**.

Is **Rich Cordray** really going to join



Israel and World Jewry

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Prince William and his family were on a **Royal Visit to Europe** this week, and made a point of touring a concentration camp in Poland, a memorial in Berlin, and meeting with survivors while in both